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ISSUE FIFTY-ONE

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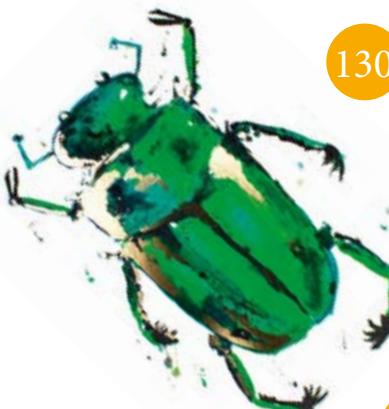
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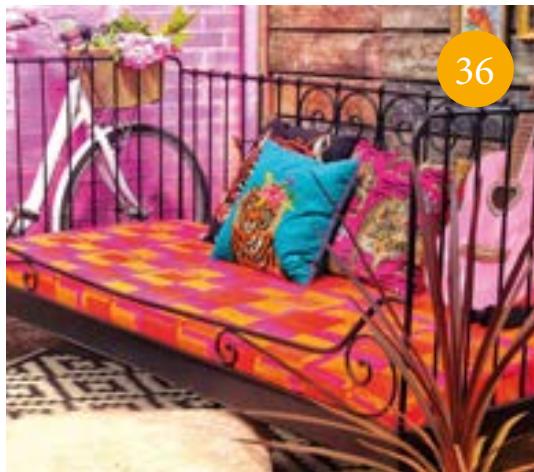
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© HILLCARTE COLOURS

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for details

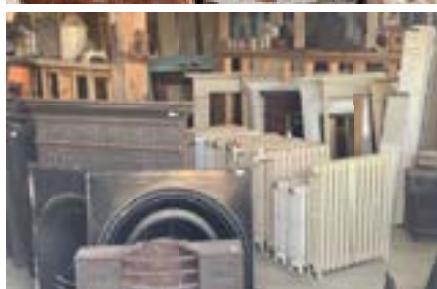


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# RECLAIM SOCIAL

Thank you for posting pictures of us on Instagram. Here are some of our favourites. Please do keep them coming, tagging them #my\_reclaim



© NOLANAE

@yinoluwa\_ : It's here! Looking forward to diving in - looking for inspiration. Thanks to @tillytomlinsonflowers for recommending it

© NICOLA FLETCHER  
@fletchnima: Some evening sunshine to enjoy with my favourite magazine



@hey\_cute\_chick:  
Reclaim and lavender, a perfect sensory experience

## Contributors' corner

We asked our contributors: 'How will you use your outdoor space over the summer?'



### ALICE ROBERTON

Summertime sees my patio becoming an extension of my workspace, as I drag

my most comfy chair out under a parasol to write. It's a happy little world with weathered benches, and flowers and herbs spilling out of old galvanised buckets.



### ELLIE TENNANT

Weather permitting, we eat outside at a table with benches and vintage linen

cushions, decorated with festoon lights, old lanterns and potted herbs. I love to tinker in the potting shed, as well as having to chase the chickens back into their coop!



### AMY BRATLEY

During lockdown we've grown dahlias in vintage pots, bought outdoor

fairy lights and repainted an old table, so we'll be eating outdoors and pretending we're on holiday!



### MARCI K

I'll be using my garden for relaxing and reflecting, perhaps even

sleeping out under the stars if we're lucky enough to get some hot summer nights. Of course, entertaining friends outdoors is also top of my list.

# A GOOD CONNECTION



I'm lucky to have a garden, and over the last few months it's been such a balm. Planting, planning and simply watching as fruits and flowers blossom from tiny seeds, sowed right at the beginning of lockdown, has helped keep me hopeful. And with more time to reflect and observe, it's clear that my corner of the natural world with its diverse inhabitants of wood pigeons and parakeets, an occasional fox and my dear (and clumsy) cat Buttons, can be far more sensible, kind and cooperative than us humans.

For it's been a time not just to appreciate the light and beauty that surrounds us, but also to look at the shadows. The systems that don't work for everyone. The materialism and excessive consumption. The hierarchies and status quo we've just accepted. We must change. And one thing's clear – we have to do it together. Because if this virus has taught us anything, it's that we're connected. We can choose to help each other, and that's empowering.

This issue is filled with the sentiment of togetherness, from the Dutch family spending time at their simple summer house (page 46) to the New York couple working together to create a beautiful, retro home (page 60).

Our feature on Instagram antiques and vintage fairs (page 80) just shows that individuals pulling together can lift a community. And elsewhere, we look at how vintage travel posters (page 118) can help satisfy our wanderlust, which has been put on hold for the time being. And maybe that's no bad thing. It means we're forced – literally and metaphorically – to put our own house in order.

*Reclaim* will be doing its part in casting light on those shadows, reflecting how we can love our homes and the environment, championing beauty, kindness and community. I hope we can do it together.

**LOMA-ANN MARKS**  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**



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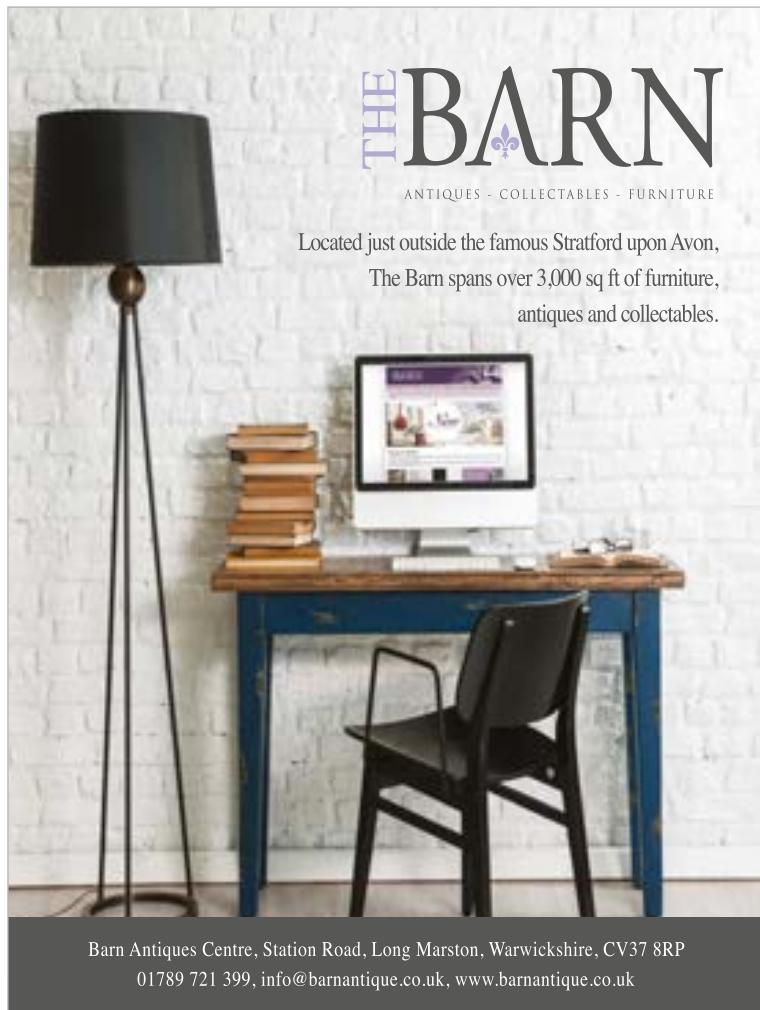


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# New this month

THE LATEST IDEAS, INSPIRATION AND EVENTS

COMPILED BY **ALICE ROBERTON**



**CARIBBEAN QUEEN** Based in Haiti and reflecting the country's magical culture and rich history, Yaël & Valérie is an exciting fabric, wallpaper and homeware brand inspired and run by women.

Founded by Valérie Louis – the company name is hers and her teenage daughter's – she hand-draws every piece, with each brought alive by her home country's vibrant colour and pattern. Collections include Past & Connection (our favourite), featuring notable women from African queens to Haitian resistance fighters; Mardi Gras, showcasing Haitian carnival masks; and Makaya, a beautiful tribute to tropical birds.

The textiles and wallpaper are created using natural fibres and made in small factories in Haiti, owned by women. More than just home furnishings, Yaël & Valérie's pieces are bursting with strength, love and affirmation. They introduce us to the fascinating stories of powerful historical women and the essence of the Caribbean.

See [yaelvalerie.com](http://yaelvalerie.com) for the catalogue and contact for UK orders; follow @yaelvalerie on Instagram and Facebook

# To do

CULTURE AND COURSES

## Exhibition

### WALK THROUGH BRITISH ART

Offering a chronological display of Britain's greatest artists, take a virtual walk through time with Tate Britain, exploring artworks from 1545 to the present day. Taken from the collection, the display is arranged by decade, starting the journey with 500 years of British art with pieces from 1540 to 1650 and ending in a celebration of the work of British women artists from the 1960s to the present day. Enjoy the rich diversity, from the works of Sir Peter Paul Rubens and unknown artists from the mid-1500s to the likes of Bridget Riley and Tracey Emin.

○ [tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain/display/walk-through-british-art](https://tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain/display/walk-through-british-art)



JOHN CONSTABLE FLATFORD MILL: SCENE ON A NAVIGABLE RIVER © TATE



DANTE GABRIEL ROSETTI THE BETROTHED © TATE



JOHN SINGER SARGENT CARNATION, LILY, ROSE © TATE

## Courses

### INTERIOR DESIGN & DÉCOR ON A SHOESTRING

Join interior creative Lucy Renshaw for an exciting online workshop – a mix of practical tasks and theory aimed to kick-start knowledge and inspire you to redesign your home on a budget. With a passion for simple living, reclaiming materials, colour and pattern, you'll be introduced to using mood boards and thinking resourcefully in order to create a considered living space.

○ 5-hour online course, £99; [lucyrenshaw.com](http://lucyrenshaw.com)

### CORE SKILLS IN NATURAL FABRIC DYEING

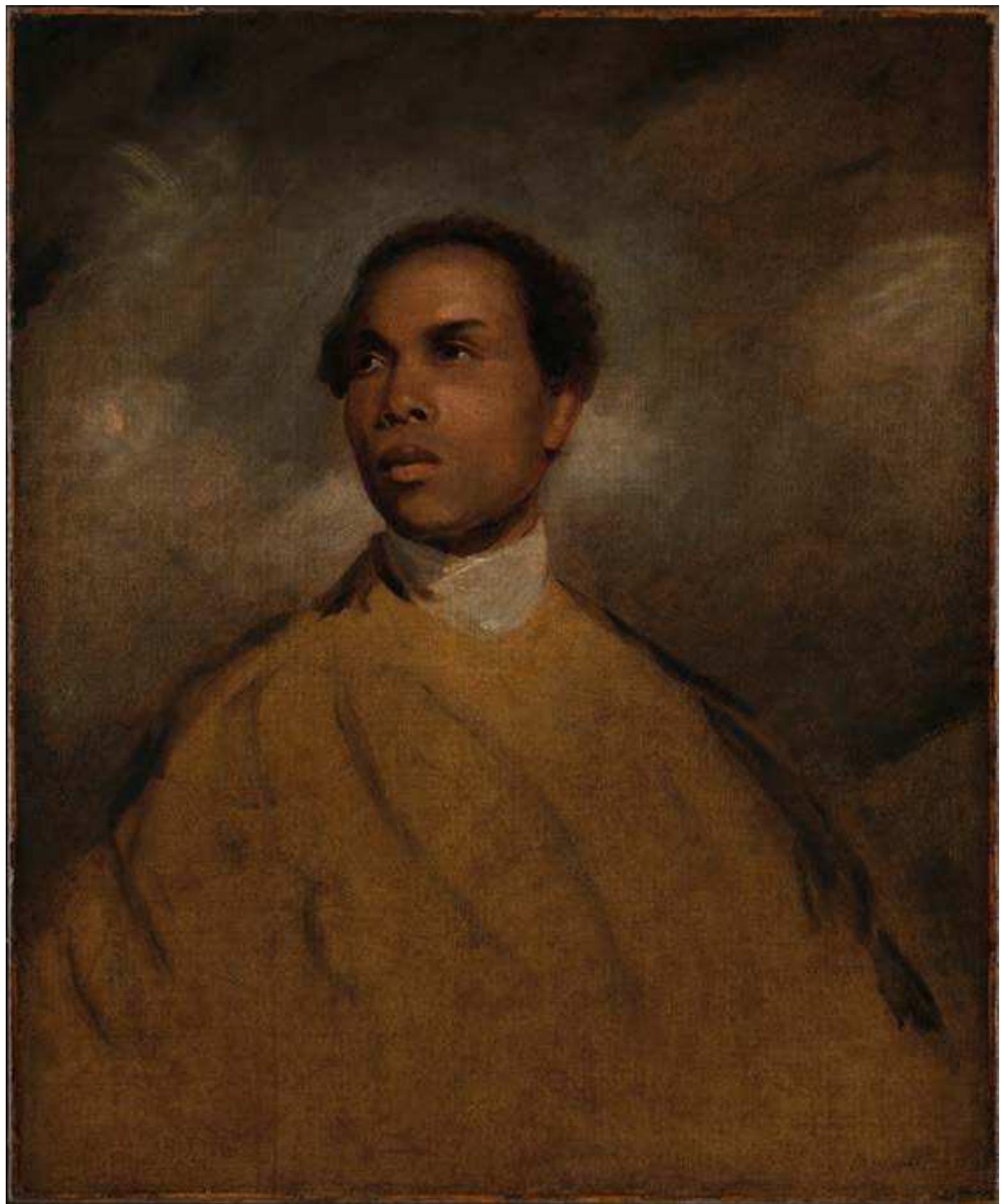
Delivered via video and written tutorials, this home-study course teaches you how to dye fabric in a spectrum of colours using just three plants. Discover the secrets to long-lasting results, play with beautiful shibori and tie-dye techniques, and create a final piece using your new-found skills. Tutor Justine Aldersey-Williams will also teach you about the fascinating history of the craft, and introduce you to its ecological benefits.

○ 20+-hour online course, £75; [naturalfabricdyeing.com](http://naturalfabricdyeing.com)



© JUSTINE ALDERSEY-WILLIAMS





SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, A YOUNG BLACK MAN © THE

# To read

OUR BOOK AND BLOG PICKS

© CICO Books

## Books

We're feeling the need to escape this month – into lush interiors, beautiful gardens or exciting upcycling plans

WORDS ANDREINA CORDANI



### STAR CHOICE

For gardeners with big imaginations but small outdoor spaces, **Emma Hardy** has the book for you.

**Small Summer Gardens** is a collection of 35 beautiful and achievable planting projects, often using charming vintage or upcycled containers. Each one lists the plants and materials you'll need with instructions, inspiring photographs and tips on aftercare. Ideas range from practical (growing strawberries in a hand-made tower for maximum fruit) to the visually stunning (a beautiful, if high-maintenance thyme wreath). The mix of basic how-to information and clever plant combinations mean this one will appeal to newbies and more experienced gardeners alike.

£14.99, CICO Books





In terms of style, the region of New England hovers between British and American culture – the homes there are often older than in the rest of the USA, and homeowners merge antiques and period features with newer touches which add life and colour. In **New England Modern**, author **Jaci Conry** meets 10 interior designers who create timeless period properties. Contemporary art hangs next to vintage wall sconces; an antique dining set gets an update with modern upholstery. The interiors are American-slick and neat but with depth provided by pieces which have a story. Covetable stuff.

£30, Gibbs Smith



Finding time to garden was impossible for **Laetitia Maklouf** until she came up with a solution: set aside five minutes a day then swoop outside, do a task, swoop in again. **The Five Minute Garden** is the result, a year-round plan of tasks and tips, with beautiful illustrations. It's a great way to demystify gardening for those of us who find it overwhelming, and the planting suggestions make it a helpful read for seasoned pros. Maklouf divides her tips into three sections – spruce, nurture and fuss – so you can pick a job to suit your mood, then get out there and enjoy!

£9.99, National Trust Books



In **Amazing Furniture Makeovers** author **Jen Crider** features upcycling projects using some of the most easily acquired vintage furniture – like those chunky 1950s sideboards and anonymous-looking pine chests of drawers you often see in charity shops. She shows how to prep wood, clean up bumps, scrapes and watermarks, as well as sharing neat decorative and upholstery ideas – we loved the tip about using an overhead projector to draw your design onto furniture. Her style is very much French rustic but the techniques can be adapted to any taste. If you've been bitten by the upcycling bug this is a great guide to get you started.

£16.99, Page Street



We're hardwired to see patterns in nature. It helps us make sense of the world, it gives us pleasure, and after reading the Royal Horticultural Society's **The Gardener's Book of Patterns** you'll spot them even more, even in the chaos of a neglected backyard. Author **Jack Wallington** looks at the concept from the macro level of architecture and soaring trees to micro level – leaves, flowers and tiny squares of mosaic. You'll see the garden patterns you've unconsciously created so far and want to make more. A fascinating read for design buffs, with stunning pictures from around the world.

£19.95, Thames & Hudson

## Blog watch

We Love Home is written by interior stylist and journalist Maxine Brady from what she describes as her 'peppermint Victorian terrace house', the bijou Brighton pad she's lovingly renovated. With a passion for indoor and outdoor living and summery pastel shades, the blog is a diary of interiors, travel and lifestyle, wellness and self-care. With posts like '5 Ways Your Home Improvements can be More Eco-Friendly', '6 Design Ideas for a Mindful Home' and 'Gorgeous Garden Paint Ideas for Summer' it's a hit of pure goodness.

[welovehomeblog.com](http://welovehomeblog.com)



© MAXINE BRADY

Maxine Brady combines a love of pastels with travel, lifestyle and wellness posts



© MAXINE BRADY



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# To visit

DISCOVER NEW PLACES



Antique chopping boards from the collection at The Home Bothy

## Shops: capital & country

### THE VINTAGE HUB

Situated within a 17,000 square foot corrugated-iron barn in North County Dublin, The Vintage Hub is a large retail outlet born out of 30 years supplying the film, TV, theatre and events industry with furniture and small prop items. With a range of vintage stock that represents the international world of design, it's skewed towards British and Scandinavian designs. As huge fans of quality design and original craftsmanship, the owners have a 'restore but don't over restore' policy ensuring everything is ready to use whilst retaining a truly authentic feel.

○ Overstown, Lusk, Dublin K45 F209; [thevintagehub.com](http://thevintagehub.com)

### THE HOME BOTHY

Rurally located in the Sussex countryside under an hour from London and 20 minutes from Brighton, this large 'by appointment only' warehouse-based showroom is tastefully laid out with an impressive mix of French, Swedish and English antiques for the garden and home. With a strong influence towards primitives, naive and folk art, expect to find quality pieces with an excellent decorative and historic value. Owners Barney and Sam live on site and offer a warm welcome – call ahead and they'll be more than happy to show you around.

○ Badgers End, Tilgate Forest Lodge, Brighton Road RH11 9AF; [homebothy.co.uk](http://homebothy.co.uk)



The Vintage Hub specialises in British and Scandinavian design



## Markets

### THE VIRTUAL VINTAGE FAIR

The Instagram-based brainchild of Sam Hansard and Tamara Broido – who together run Your Antique Sourcing Studio – was launched two days before lockdown to provide a new selling platform for 35 vintage dealers. Starting out on a page with 400 followers and now boasting 17,000 plus, the fair works on a daily rotation system where dealers take it in turns to showcase fresh stock. With a personal biography of each dealer, a gallery of swipe-through images and a click-through to the seller's account, this excellent virtual fair provides the perfect gateway to vintage pieces. Best of all, it's here to stay.

○ [Instagram @virtualvintagefair; @yourantiquesourcingstudio](#)



### DETLING OUTDOOR ANTIQUES MARKET

This outdoor-only antiques market at Detling in Kent is back after lockdown for a one-day event, to replace their normal two-day Antiques and Collectors Fair. With full Covid-19 guidelines in place (see their website for details) to keep dealers and buyers safe, the event is a welcome start as the B2B fairs begin again. Expect lots of their usual dealers, bolstered by those selling for the first time, with a huge selection of collectables, decorative accessories, gardenalia, jewellery and more. There's free parking, and both cash and card payment will be accepted.

○ 19 July, Kent County Showground, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3JF; [b2bevents.info](#)



### THE GIANT SHEPTON FLEA

After a Covid-19 hiatus, the southwest's hugely popular and largely outdoor flea market is back on, much to the delight of UK buyers and sellers. Located on the Royal Bath and West Showground, between the Somerset towns of Glastonbury and Frome, the outside space will be extended for dealers, whilst the available inside space will be reduced to create a safe environment for social distancing. Expect a plethora of items for the home and garden, from antique and retro furniture and gardenalia to vintage clothing, toys and textiles.

○ 16 August, Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN; [sheptonflea.com](#)



### SANDOWN ANTIQUES HOME AND INTERIORS FAIR

Brought to you by Sunbury Antiques, organisers of the much-loved Kempton Antiques Market, this excellent event was put on hold in response to Covid-19 but is now about to bounce back. Conveniently located within the M25 in the historic Surrey town of Esher, this part-indoor and part-outdoor event is popular with collectors, homemakers, interior designers, props buyers and stylists, all of whom will be delighted to see its return.

○ 19 July and 30 August, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ; [sunburyantiques.com](#)



# In brief

TRENDING RIGHT NOW

COMPILED BY ELLIE TENNANT

## What's hot

### Unframed oil paintings

Whether they're on the floor propped up nonchalantly against a wall or hung in a group centre-stage, unframed oil paintings are all the rage



For a casual display that's easy to change, lean unframed artworks on a desk



Prop a collection of canvases on a kitchen ledge for a striking result



Vintage French oil painting on canvas, £110, ivyjoan.co.uk

There's something unfussy and refreshingly honest about an unframed piece of art. When the edges of the canvas are laid bare with rusty pins, frayed cotton and corner folds all visible, the artist seems somehow more tangible and the resulting look is relaxed and rustic in contrast to the stark formality a frame often lends a piece of art.

Antiques dealer Spencer Swaffer, who always

has a good selection of vintage paintings in stock, says unframed oils are particularly sought-after at the moment. 'They lend a feeling of authenticity, as if you are viewing the canvas straight from the artist's studio,' he explains. 'It's all about a simpler, more approachable look to decorating which uses real surfaces to add comfort to a room.'

There is also a more practical side to selling unframed oil paintings. 'Antique and vintage oil

paintings often arrive in dreadfully inappropriate frames, which dominate the art,' reveals Spencer. 'If you chuck these horrors away, you can watch the paintings come to life.'

Obviously prices vary hugely in this field. You can get lucky and pick up a beautiful little oil on canvas for £10 in a charity shop, or splurge thousands at auction on a large or important piece of art.

## CARING FOR YOUR ART

The British Antique Dealers' Association warns that oil paintings suffer from exposure to fluctuations in temperature, so always avoid hanging close to a heat source such as a fireplace or radiator. Direct sunlight can fade colours and cleaning should only be done by a professional, although it's fine to dust with a soft artist's brush.

# TOP 5

## Independent garden centres



### Winterbrook Garden Nurseries

#### Best for: Eco living

Garden antiques and quirky gifts make this small, friendly nursery a must-visit. We love the family firm's sustainable ethos, too – this was one of the first nurseries in the UK to use Posipots, a cardboard alternative to plastic pots – and the shop stocks Dalesfoot organic peat-free compost.

○ High Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford OX10 0PS; [hannacottredesigns.com](http://hannacottredesigns.com)

### Old Court Nurseries

#### Best for: Amazing asters

This small nursery specialises in Michaelmas daisies and holds the Plant Heritage National Collection of autumn-flowering asters with more than 400 varieties, as well as snowdrops, narcissi and ferns. Founded in 1906 by Ernest Ballard, today it's run by the third generation of the Picton family. The attractive 1.5-acre Picton Garden acts as a display garden and stock bed.

○ Walwyn Road, Colwall, Herefordshire WR13 6QW; [oldcourtnurseries.co.uk](http://oldcourtnurseries.co.uk)



1

2

3

4

5



### Wellington Home and Gardens

#### Best for: Salvaged finds

Reclamation yard addicts with green fingers will love this new home and garden centre created by Pru and Rupert Woods, owners of English Salvage. Thanks to panelling made from old doors, a restaurant with walls clad in reclaimed timber and salvaged gym flooring in the new food hall, it oozes character throughout, with quality plants and lovely gifts.

○ A49 Wellington, Herefordshire HR4 8BB; [wellingtonhomeandgardens.co.uk](http://wellingtonhomeandgardens.co.uk)

### The Palace Gardener

#### Best for: City spaces

Established by David Fenwick in the late 1930s, this friendly business in Fulham is run by the second and third generations of the family. Today it's a thriving hub with outdoor furniture, houseplants, tools, garden plants, gifts, barbecues and a great range of pots and containers. Recent events include a front garden competition and shopping evenings.

○ Bishop's Avenue, London SW6 6EE; [palacegardener.com](http://palacegardener.com)



### Ruxley Manor

#### Best for: Advice

Founded in 1964, this fifth-generation family business has roots stretching back to 1876. There's usually a great programme of gardening talks and workshops, plus the expert Ruxley team publishes online videos and even a magazine filled with tips and step-by-step projects.

There's a café, restaurant, soft play area and a fantastic food hall.

○ Maidstone Road, Orpington, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BQ; [ruxley-manor.co.uk](http://ruxley-manor.co.uk)



# RECLAIM EDIT

We've unearthed these treasured items,  
from a designer pendant light to an  
upcycled telephone



## TIMELESS BEAUTY

From the talented Jay&Co team, this mid-century Scandinavian chair features turquoise wool fabric.

£155, [jayand.co](http://jayand.co)



### FIRST CLASS

A 1960s post office wall clock made by Gents' of Leicester gets our stamp of approval.

£110, [vinterior.co](http://vinterior.co)



### ON REFLECTION

A statement piece, this stunning heavily foxed 19th-century French mirror will add instant grandeur to your home.

£550, [riddingswinn.com](http://riddingswinn.com)



### BRIGHT SIDE

Handmade with antique fabric from Asia, this set of cushions is vintage and vibrant.

£295 for the set, [vintagefrench.com](http://vintagefrench.com)

## BUILDING BLOCKS

From rural India, these vintage brick moulds work well as wooden planters indoors or on a balcony.

○ £30 each, [scaramangashop.co.uk](http://scaramangashop.co.uk)



## LIGHT FANTASTIC

Designed by Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen in the 1960s, this original pendant has been rewired and is one of two available.

○ £325, [theoldcinema.co.uk](http://theoldcinema.co.uk)

## POT OF GOLD

Preserve a little piece of history with these late 19th-century glazed confit pots, which were used in French kitchens.

○ £125 for the pair,  
[Hairsines at thehoarde.com](http://hairsinesatthehoarde.com)





### HOUSE CALL

Checked and approved by a vintage phone specialist, this working upcycled phone is perfect for Frida Kahlo aficionados.

£25, [mintandmay.co.uk](http://mintandmay.co.uk)



### SUN WORSHIPPER

Dating from the 1950s (but rewired), this Spanish sunburst tole light will bring a ray of sunshine into your home.

£250, [ragandbonebristol.com](http://ragandbonebristol.com)

## LET'S PLAY

Inject some fun into your interior décor with a vintage cigarette advertising sign.

£375, [theoldcinema.co.uk](http://theoldcinema.co.uk)



## CURIOSITY CABINET

Once used by a market trader, imagine this characterful vintage display cabinet full of all your bits and pieces.

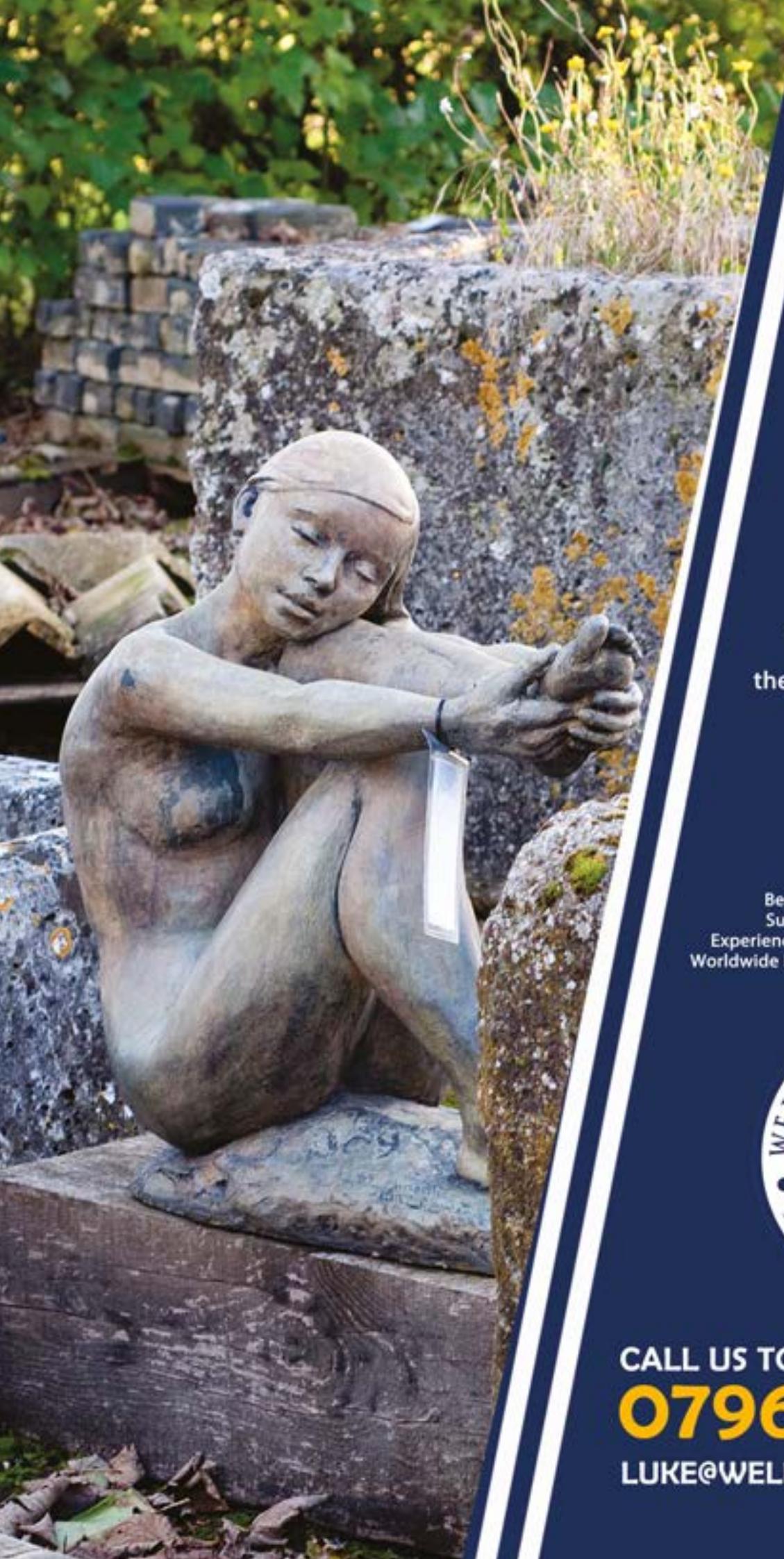
£325, [scaramangashop.co.uk](http://scaramangashop.co.uk)



## DOOR DÉCOR

Elegant and striking, snap up this vintage pair of plain, dark wooden doorknobs.

£30 for the pair, [englishsalvage.co.uk](http://englishsalvage.co.uk)



## ARCHITECTURAL AUCTION SPECIALISTS

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# display & design

IDEAS, UPCYCLES, ICONS



- Create an outdoor oasis with salvaged, reclaimed and vintage gardenalia
- Collect and display classic Ladybird books
- Make it! A simple, all-weather garden daybed that fits your space
- The latest news, products and ideas from the upcycling world



Award-winning interiors stylist and photographer Tamsyn Morgans shares her styling tips and ideas. See more at [tamsynmorgans.com](http://tamsynmorgans.com) and on Instagram @tamsynmorgans

# Style & vintage with Tamsyn Morgans

Make your garden an oasis of tranquillity by pairing pretty cottage garden flowers with vintage outdoor paraphernalia, creating areas to sit and enjoy the peace of nature

IMAGES © TAMSYN MORGANS





## Table for two

Even a small balcony can house a pretty bistro table and chairs, and there are plenty of dealers who are selling sets like this. Perfect for a sundowner or a light lunch, they fold up easily so are practical as well as beautiful.

### Sourcebook

- Bistro set, zinc florist bucket and vintage French zinc beakers: Available to hire from Vintage Stagers ([vintagestagers.co.uk](http://vintagestagers.co.uk)) or check out The Hoarde ([thehoarde.com](http://thehoarde.com)) for a good selection to buy.
- Traditional tea towel: From Butlers Emporium (see Facebook).
- Vintage lace panel: Try Etsy for similar.



## Terracotta, tubs & teapots

I'm very aware that I talk about zinc a lot, but it's so easy to find which is why I have an abundance of it for all sorts of uses! I'm currently using a couple of small tubs as seed planters, and they look lovely with summer blooms. Assorted vintage terracotta pots are delightful stacked up in an old wire basket, while a rusty kettle is given a whimsical new lease of life when planted with cosmos.

### Sourcebook

- Old zinc, reclaimed garden tools and terracotta pots: The best places to find these are at auctions and car-boot fairs. Arthur Swallow Fairs are currently offering online Decorative Home and Salvage Shows (see page 80 for more details) which have lots of dealers selling vintage gardenalia ([asfairs.co.uk](http://asfairs.co.uk); Instagram @asfairs).
- Vintage zinc planters: Goose Home & Garden also have a good selection ([goosehomeandgarden.com](http://goosehomeandgarden.com)).



## Time out

If you're working from home, it's nice to down tools or technology and take five minutes under a shady tree. Soften old metal garden furniture with throws, eiderdowns and cushions, to make a place to sit and think, or read a few pages of *Reclaim*!

### Sourcebook

- *Antique garden chair and urn:* Both discovered at my local auction house ([rwgaze.co.uk](http://rwgaze.co.uk)).
- *Floral cushion:* Find similar at Kimberley Dawn ([kimberleydawn.co.uk](http://kimberleydawn.co.uk)).
- *Traditional eiderdown:* Choose from a selection at Decorative Country Living ([decorativecountryliving.com](http://decorativecountryliving.com)).



## Room with a view

If, like me, you're lucky enough to have a small summerhouse, then make it a sanctuary and decorate it as you would any other room. I've styled mine on a shoestring: the daybed is made from parts of my old sofa, and the side table created simply from an old trunk and a marble worktop.

### Sourcebook

- Steamer trunk: I found this at a car-boot fair and revamped it with a lick of paint.
- Marble worktop (on top of trunk): From eBay.
- Wire basket: From Arthur Swallow Fairs, as before.
- Grainsack cushions: Find a selection at Angel Stores ([angelstores.co.uk](http://angelstores.co.uk)).
- Vintage eiderdown: From The Old Haberdashery ([theoldhaberdashery.com](http://theoldhaberdashery.com)).

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# Design Icon

# EASY READER

WORDS CASSIE FAIRY



One of the most compelling reasons for keeping and expanding a collection as an adult is childhood memories. The nostalgia that a classic toy, favourite character or much-loved book evokes is sure to pull at the heartstrings and start us reminiscing about times gone by. Ladybird books certainly hold that wistfulness for me. I don't remember if I ever owned one myself, but I was drawn to them in

every primary classroom, library and doctors' waiting room I found myself in.

I vividly remember the beautiful illustrations of Cinderella's glass slippers in the Ladybird book I flicked through while waiting to see the nurse for my childhood vaccinations. I'm sure it calmed me down – or at least provided a distraction from the impending injections! So much so that now, as an adult, I still feel relaxed

and content whenever I pick up a Ladybird book to read to my nieces and nephews.

I anticipate a collection brewing; their lure is almost irresistible when I spot originals on sale for a just a few pounds in charity shops. With some practical titles like *Learning to Crochet* and the *We Can Cook* recipe book still proving very useful, it seems almost sensible to start filling my bookshelves with classic Ladybird titles.

# Styling Ladybird books



## BOOK BUNTING

Pages from damaged books can be upcycled to give a nostalgic feel to birthday parties and vintage interiors. This handmade bunting by Natalie Ellett – from Folksy shop Nicely Made by Natalie – incorporates original illustrations from vintage Ladybird books to create a unique decoration that features the story images on the front and snippets of the text on the reverse.

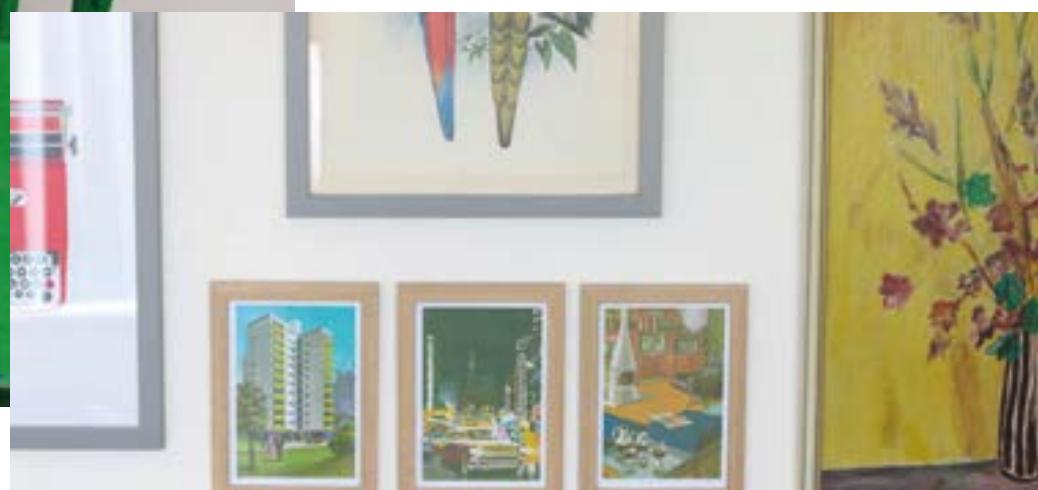
© VINTAGEMISCHIEF.COM



## HOME LIBRARY

The best way to get children (and yourself) interested in reading a vintage Ladybird book is to keep them conveniently on display. An old library display shelf from Vintage Mischief has been repurposed in this home office to keep educational titles close at hand during homework time. The illustrated covers are not only lovely to look at, they also help to tempt kids to pick up a book to read for themselves.

© ANDY GREENACE



## IN THE PICTURE

Ladybird illustrations are what make the original books so special, so why not frame them up as part of a gallery wall? Use illustrations from fairy tales for a child's bedroom, pages from *Cooking with Mother* in the kitchen, or switch them out for images from a Christmas story to add a festive touch to your walls in December. Of course, you should only use damaged tomes where the pages are already falling out or missing.

THE  
FAMERS

»»»



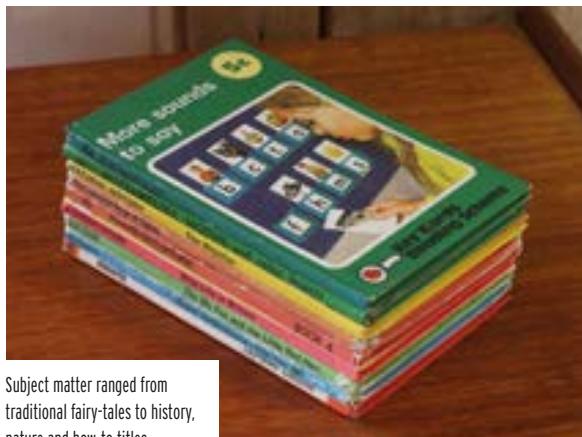
The different styles of Ladybird logos help to determine the age of the book

### THE BACKGROUND STORY

Ladybird books date back to World War I when Loughborough catalogue printers Wills & Hepworth thought up a new way to keep their business going during the war years. They registered the trademark in 1915 and began creating 'wholesome and healthy' non-fiction books and stories for children. Wartime restrictions dictated the size of the books, unintentionally creating the mini-hardback style that Ladybird are famous for. This also ensured that the books were economical to print and could be sold at an accessible price – equating to about £1 in today's money. Henry Wills and William Hepworth sought out artists to create the characteristic illustrations, including renowned RCA artist Charles Tunnicliffe, comic illustrator Martin Aitchison and official war artist John Berry. Their illustrations elevated the books and the original artwork is highly regarded to this day.

Countless children in British primary schools learnt to read with Ladybird's Peter and Jane books from the 'Key Words Reading Scheme'. Watercolour artist Harry Wingfield and *Eagle* comic illustrator Frank Hampson joined Ladybird's regular artists to bring the two characters to life. The books launched in 1964 and went on to be published in more than 60 countries. This educational series had sold over 100 million copies by the time the company came to celebrate its centenary in 2015.

Ladybird continues to produce books for children up to age five, which are published by Penguin. In recent years a range of 35 parody books called 'Ladybirds for Grown-ups' has been published, with titles such as *The Hipster*, *The Story of Brexit* and *The Zombie Apocalypse*. For adults who want to expand their knowledge on history, science and culture, the original compact format has been used to publish a collection of 'Ladybird Expert' factual books since 2017.



Subject matter ranged from traditional fairy-tales to history, nature and how-to titles

### SPOT THE GENUINE ARTICLE

While the usual process of identifying an original item can involve searching for makers' marks or looking for design clues, with Ladybird books it couldn't be easier. The Ladybird logo will feature on the cover, although it's not always the same logo. Variations include the ladybird inside a white circle, a black rectangle, surrounded by a red frame, inside a key shape or as part of the floral 'Well-loved Tales' series. The ladybird is sometimes a top-down image, and at other times it is positioned at an angle, crawling across the cover. The earliest logo depicted the Ladybird with open wings.

If you want to start a collection, there are a vast number of titles to choose from. Ladybird had published over 600 books by the beginning of the 1980s and continued to add around 100 new titles each year in the 90s. Check the front page inside the book to uncover further details on the publishing date and edition. 



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# RECLAIM Creative with Marcie K

Professional upcycler and vintage market trader Marcie K shares her tips on how to create unique pieces at home, without breaking the budget. Plus, enjoy her market musings as she tells us what she's been up to

IMAGES © MARCIE K



Where do I begin? Who knew when I was writing last month's column what was about to occur. I hope everyone is coping. I know what a struggle it has been for small businesses and the self-employed, especially for those who had only just started or invested in their business. And I appreciate that I've been very lucky.

Whilst my workshops were cancelled and I slowed down in general – sometimes due to access to materials – I've managed to keep working throughout. It seems like everyone who's been furloughed needs a new office chair or print. (On a side note, how crazy is that word? Not long ago 'furlough' was something I only had a vague notion of, but now it just slips off the tongue like I've been saying it for years.)

Like everyone else, I'm thinking about what's going to happen going forward. When will the recession hit? What happens if there's a second wave of coronavirus? Will I ever get a refund for my holiday flights? It's hard to make plans and

that's okay so I haven't, and if I do I'll be ready to change them. I feel relaxed about that. In fact, at times I've felt more relaxed than I have in years – letting go of control can have some benefits. Just need to control that lockdown wine intake now!

After all this I hope there's some permanent change. Through all the tragedy I don't want us to just go back to our pre-Covid 'normal', as I've also seen some wonderful things happening. Crafting, which is amazing for mental health, has had an explosion of interest, and people really are making do and mending because they've had the time. Due to my mum's health, we celebrated her 80th birthday by doing an afternoon tea on her lawn whilst she sat in her doorway. It was lovely: neighbours brought blankets out and sat on their own lawns for a few hours, and people she hadn't spoken to for years came up to wish her happy birthday. Lockdown created a celebration she actually enjoyed and one she won't forget. And that's definitely food for thought.

>> [marciekdesigns.com](http://marciekdesigns.com);  
 Instagram @marciekdesigns



## Project mission

CREATE AN OUTDOOR OASIS  
FOR ALL WEATHER

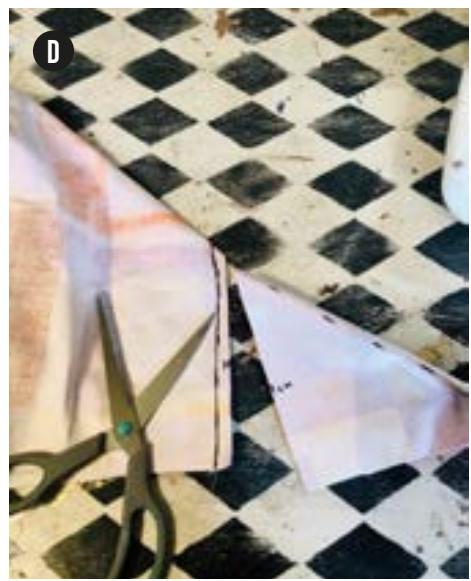
### YOU WILL NEED

Daybed and mattress • Rubber/plastic mattress cover  
Fabric • Sewing machine • Elastic  
Polyvine Heavy Duty Extreme Varnish  
Spray bottle • Brush





Stitch the corners to create a snug fit



Don't forget to leave a gap in your casing



Outdoor rooms are growing in popularity and, as someone who's ridden this trend with fairy lights on her heels, I can let you in on the downside of it – the rain! This year, though, I'm on it. I'm going to be weather-ready. Firstly, no outdoor oasis is complete without a daybed and I know from experience that I'm useless at treating wood every year, so it needs to be metal. Secondly, the mattress must be waterproof. This led me down an Amazon and Facebook Marketplace rabbit hole and by the end I had purchased an IKEA metal daybed for £30, found a free single mattress, bought a rubber covering to encase the mattress (£8 from Amazon) and purchased

a bottle of Polyvine Heavy Duty Extreme Varnish which is waterproof and has UV protection. This will be used to waterproof my cover and stop it fading. Not a bad hour's work. Now just to create that fitted cover...

1 Take the measurements of your mattress, including the depth of the sides, and add about 4cm to each side for seam allowance, then cut your fabric to size (A).

2 On each of the four corners, measure and mark out a square to the depth of your mattress, plus the 4cm seam allowance – in my case this was 19cm (B). This is to create your

fitted corners. With right sides facing, bring the two marked lines of the square together to create a diagonal crease. Stitch down from the top corner of the square, following your marked lines, then trim the excess fabric (C and D). Repeat for all corners.

3 To create the casing for the elastic, just fold over enough of an allowance that you could fit a pen easily through. Stitch all the way around the sides, but leave an opening to slide the elastic in (E).

4 Using about 3 metres of elastic (I ended up having to join some), attach the end to



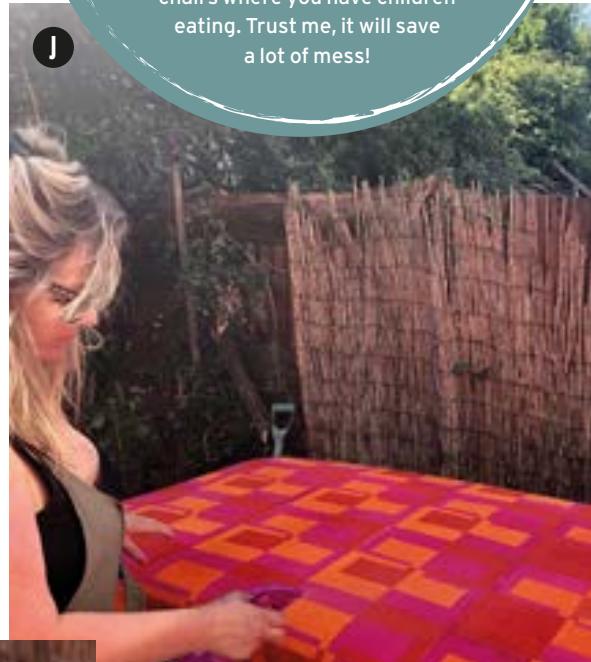
G



H



I



J

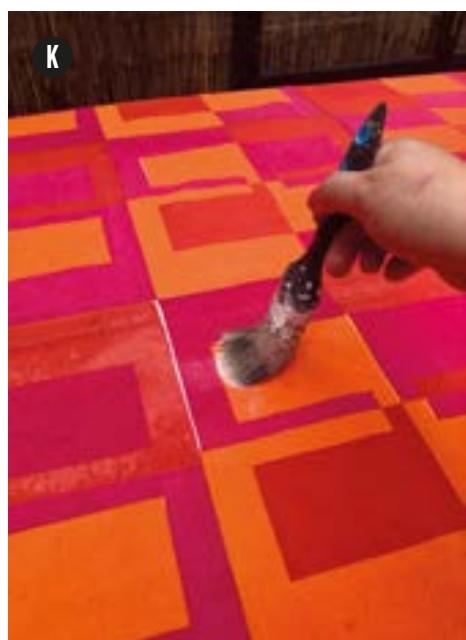
## Marcie's top tips

Varnishing works best on a fabric with a flat pile and will leave it feeling like canvas

If you can't sew, use hemming bond to create your cover, or decorate a fitted sheet with fabric pens instead

Use this varnishing technique on any chairs where you have children eating. Trust me, it will save a lot of mess!

Spray your finished cover with the varnish



K

something that can be threaded through the casing. For instance, knitting needles, empty biros, safety pins or a small screwdriver (F).

5 Start threading your elastic through the casing, pushing the gathers back as you go. Make sure the end of the elastic is secure and doesn't disappear, as it will mean starting all over again. Either pin it or use a safety pin. Once it's threaded all the way around, knot the ends (G) and stitch the opening closed. For added

protection, stitch a line either side of the knotted elastic, just in case it breaks (H).

6 Slip the cover onto the mattress and balance it on something you can get good access to all the way around. Pour some of the varnish into a spray bottle and add some water to make it easier to use (I). Spray all over the cover, using a brush to work it in (J and K). Give the seams on the corners extra attention. Repeat two or three times, letting each coat dry in between.





## The sunshine and flowers issue



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# Upcycling notes

Love transforming vintage furniture? Stay one step ahead with our round-up of the latest news and products

COMPILED BY ELLIE TENNANT

## ROLL WITH IT

If you're a seasoned upcycler, you'll know how tricky it is to get a smooth finish with a paint roller. New Zealand decorators Peter Spychala and Chris Pilipczuk were so frustrated with the poor quality of paint rollers available that they created their own range: Two Fussy Blokes ([twofussyblokes.com](http://twofussyblokes.com)), using 'the highest density microfibre in the world', for an ultra-smooth finish.

Our upcycler of the month Rena Curtin of Catherine & Kay is a fan (see page 44), as is upcycler Sarah Murphy ([@colourfulsaz](http://colourfulsaz.com)), who's a dab hand with masking tape and used the new rollers to paint this cheery chest of drawers. 'Two Fussy Blokes rollers glide seamlessly onto furniture and create a sprayed-like finish,' she tells *Reclaim*.

From £1.20 for a 5mm Two Fussy Blokes smooth mini roller sleeve; [paintshack.co.uk](http://paintshack.co.uk)





## PLATE UPDATE

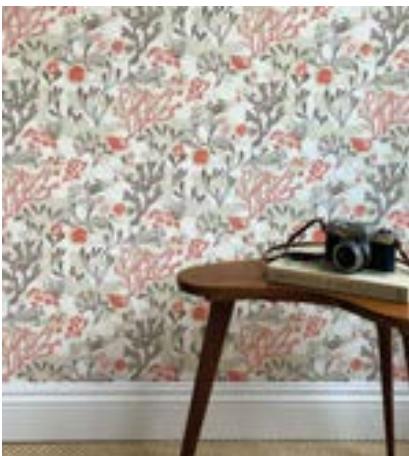
Feeling artistic? Gather your plainest plates and give them a summer refresh using a specialist paint such as Pebeo porcelain paint. Try a dip-dye effect by painting the edges of the plates and dipping them in a bowl of water to let the paint run a bit, or simply splatter the paint from a brush for a 'Jackson Pollock' finish. Bake them in the oven for 35 minutes to fix the paint.

○ Pebeo porcelain paint £15.99 for 12 x 20ml colours; [bakerross.co.uk](http://bakerross.co.uk)

## SEASIDE STORY

Lining drawers? A seaside holiday might be a distant dream this summer, but this Rockpools wallpaper by designer Fiona Howard conjures up a coastal feel, with limpets, crabs, seaweed and clusters of pretty shells. It's available in five colourways, so you can choose the best palette for your piece.

○ Rockpools wallpaper in coral, £69 per roll; [fionahoward.com](http://fionahoward.com)



## SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

If you're new to upcycling, check out the Mini Project Pack from Annie Sloan. It contains two 120ml pots of chalk paint in your choice of colours, two 120ml pots of wax and one small brush – everything you need for a starter-size project.

○ Mini Project Pack, £29.95; [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)



## TEXTILE INSPIRATION

The first Selvedge World Fair will take place online on 3–5 September. This three-day virtual event will celebrate cloth, culture and creativity – you can take part in online workshops, participate in talks on textile-related themes and buy handmade cloth for your next project. Visit [selvedge.org](http://selvedge.org) for more details.

## PALETTE



Pleasant Pink 2094-60, from £24 for 0.94 litres Regal Select Matte; [benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk](http://benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk)

## Soft peach and plaster pink

Choose pretty pastel peach and dusky plaster pink for a fresh, light scheme – perfect for a bedroom. Introduce accessories in chestnut brown or bold Côte d'Azur blue for contrast.



Cartagena, from £16 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion; [diy.com](http://diy.com)



Powdered Heather, from £30 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion; [dulux.co.uk](http://dulux.co.uk)

Pink Skies, from £30 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion; [dulux.co.uk](http://dulux.co.uk)

Honfleur, from £21.95 for 1 litre chalk paint; [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)



Santorini, from £25 for 1 litre pure matt; [fenwickandtilbrook.com](http://fenwickandtilbrook.com)



# The upcycler files

Insider tips and tricks from those in the know



**UPCYCLER** Rena Curtin, Kilkenny, Ireland  
**PROJECT** Dressing table  
**TOP TIP** 'To get blackened brass hardware gleaming like new, put it in a saucepan with water and white vinegar, boil for four minutes, allow to cool, then buff with steel wool.'

## How did you get into upcycling?

I spent 38 years in financial services but I'd always loved interiors, especially furniture. At the end of 2017, when I got the opportunity to avail of a redundancy, I grabbed it with both hands and decided to do what I was really passionate about.

## Do you prefer your new job?

I love it so much, it doesn't feel like a job. Painting is a complete therapy – my mind blanks out and it's like meditation. I love rescuing old pieces of furniture and when you see the craftsmanship that went into them it's such a shame to let them go to landfill.

## Why is your brand called Catherine & Kay?

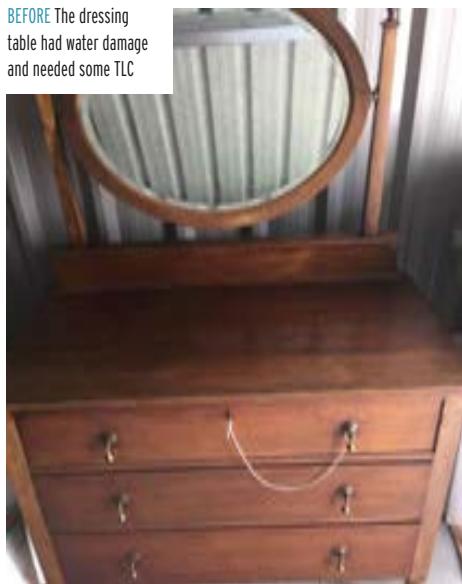
I was christened Catherine but was only ever called Rena. My mother was known as Kay, but when she passed away we discovered from her death certificate that she too was christened Catherine. So when I was coming up with a name for the business, it just seemed right.

## Where do you source your furniture?

There's a good auction house in a little village not too far from Kilkenny. It has four auctions a year and I always go and have a rummage. You need to root around if you want to spot a little gem.

**'start out small – do something you own yourself and if it goes wrong it doesn't matter'**

**BEFORE** The dressing table had water damage and needed some TLC



## Where did you find this dressing table?

It was in a pile at an auction, so nobody could see how pretty it was. It had water damage on the top and that can put people off, but it had good bones and I knew I could do something with it. It was badly scratched and I had to replace one of the mirror hinges.

## Can you describe your process to revamp this piece?

The prep work is so important. There are paints that claim not to need any prep, but the finish won't last. The first thing I did was clean it with a 50/50 solution of water and methylated spirits. If there are any oils from people's hands on a piece of furniture, sanding will only push the oil down into the wood, so it has to be completely clean. I sanded it down thoroughly to remove any scratches and create a smooth surface, then vacuumed and wiped it with a microfibre cloth to remove any dust. As it's mahogany, there was a danger of tannins bleeding through out of the wood, so I gave it a coat of Zinsser B-I-N primer, then did a quick sand, wiped it down, then gave it another coat of primer. I used a pearl glaze around the mirror at the edges to reflect light onto the glass.

## What paint did you use?

I painted the main body using Coral Crush from General Finishes, a brand I like. I also use Fusion mineral paint which has zero VOCs, so



**AFTER** Painted in a vibrant coral hue with stencilled edging to the drawers, and elegant finishing touches

you don't have to breathe in any harmful chemicals. I don't use chalk paint because I like a smoother feel. I use Cling-On brushes because they don't shed, and they last for a long time if you look after them.

## Are the finishing touches important?

Yes! I spend so much time on the finishing touches; I'm a stickler for the details. On this dressing table I loved the handles – they're a bit like earrings – so I kept them, painted them silver and sealed with a topcoat. Nobody ever closes drawers, so I decorated the sides of them with stencils.

## What advice would you give to new upcyclers?

Start out small. Do something that you own yourself and if it goes wrong it doesn't matter. It's a learning curve. You learn something from every piece.

>> [catherineandkay.com](http://catherineandkay.com);  
 Instagram @catherineandkay

## at Wellington Home & Gardens



# REST AND RESET



Mireille Otten and Theo van Heese's lovingly restored French summer house effortlessly marries form and function with its unique blend of vintage finds, pastel tones and rustic features

WORDS EMMA J PAGE STYLING MONIQUE VAN DER PAUW IMAGES © TON BOUWER/COCO FEATURES



The original house, on the right, has been seamlessly extended with matching timber cladding and white shutters

Theo and Mireille, with daughters Juul and Teuntje, spent over 10 years renovating their idyllic summer house



**I**t was the dream of long summer days spent sitting in the shade of an old-fashioned orchard that prompted Dutch couple Mireille Otten and Theo van Heese to look for a home away from home. For them, the siren call of outdoor living was the driving force behind their impromptu purchase of a simple wooden outhouse in a rural area of Bourgogne, France. Unsurprisingly, abundant fruit trees, an expansive garden and proximity to a picturesque lake tugged at their heartstrings first, followed by the appeal of this modest but architecturally pleasing structure. ‘We had craved a second home that connected us to nature for a long time,’ reflects Mireille. ‘Our efforts were focused on Norway or Sweden, with no intention of buying in France, but I spotted this online and was seduced.’

The family, including daughters Teuntje, 21, and Juul, 17, had never holidayed in France before, so that autumn more than a decade ago, they took the opportunity to visit the area and view the simple wooden structure. Even though the compact space comprised just one single room complete with washstand, plus an outdoor gas burner for cooking, its potential was obvious. ‘The house was on the edge of a friendly hamlet, surrounded by meadows and grazing sheep,’ Mireille says. ‘Abundant trees were laden with prunes and pears – we had found our orchard.’

Over the ensuing years, the family painstakingly restored the building, turning the original room into a kitchen and small bathroom, while adding a seamless extension to accommodate a sitting room and two bedrooms. ‘Prior to

The family enjoy carefree outdoor living, surrounded by meadows and flocks of grazing sheep



that, the girls slept in a 1964 Westland caravan in the garden for at least three summers,’ says Mireille. ‘It was great fun, but we yearned to be under one roof, plus the charm of cooking outside in the winter soon faded.’

Crucial to the renovation was the preservation of the property’s lived-in, rustic look. So the same pine wood was used for the annexe, the roof was tiled in red terracotta, white painted shutters complement the originals, beams were left exposed in the sitting room and walls were largely painted white. Furniture was foraged from local *brocantes* and vintage stores, mixed with Scandi pieces for a relaxed, contemporary look. Much of the furniture is unfitted so that it can work just as well outside as in, while a palette of pastels, from mint green to mid-pink, imbues light and warmth to this cosy cabin whatever the weather.

»»»



A wrought-iron daybed adds an elegant touch to the garden and provides the perfect spot for a nap.



Vintage-inspired wallpaper in ice-cream shades adds a soft colour panel to the sitting room

# Pastel power

**G**etting the colour scheme just right was crucial to the success of this renovation,' Mireille recalls. Although the white walls create a Scandi backdrop, the couple departed from their roots by opting for more eclectic, colourful interiors with an 'undone' feel, fitting of a relaxed home where downtime is key. 'We introduced colour through the pastoral, whimsical wallpaper panel in the sitting room, in rugs and textiles – such as the highly patterned kitchen sink skirt – and in accessories like crockery,' says Mireille. 'We also painted many of the wooden pieces – from the mint-green open shelving in the kitchen to the blue-grey vintage cabinet in the sitting room – to bounce the light around. I like colour, but I am fussy about it. I'm not into strong hues like red, but I do enjoy the nuances of grey and I love the soft and smooth nature of pastels.'



Crockery is chosen for its green and blue hues, displayed on painted shelves above the kitchen sink

Old-fashioned floral wallpaper and a wrought-iron bed bring country simplicity to the girls' bedroom



## Calming colours

*If you're not inclined towards bold colour but crave impact beyond a neutral palette, pastels are a good option.*

*Choosing knocked back versions of your favourite hues, such as a pistachio-green instead of a vivid turquoise, will create a scheme that's easier on the eye. Combine no more than three colours, with one acting as a unifying hue for a cohesive note.*

# Simple touch

The understated schemes of this summer house give a sense that they have evolved organically, and indeed the family has been curating its contents over many years. Their approach was to embrace spontaneity and to do away with preconceived ideas about look and feel. 'Most of the pieces were picked up second-hand in local shops, online and in French antiques markets,' says Mireille. 'We bought what appealed to us and what evolved was an interior that combined 1950s and 60s pieces with a few affordable, contemporary touches, such as the IKEA sofa or the rug from Dutch houseware store Hema.'

The couple didn't want to be slaves to retro style, so it was crucial to opt for an informal mix. 'We also added our own imprint by upcycling most pieces – plenty of outdoor space gave us the room to get handy with a paintbrush,' explains Mireille. 'We transformed local finds by painting them or swapping out the hardware, and we preserved the aged patina of pieces by embracing their imperfections.' Collected pieces such as colourful 1950s glassware add personality, but overall the look remains simple at heart. 'This home has to be practical and hardworking for its size, so we chose function without too many frills.'



## Become a curator

*Create a lived-in feel by taking time to pick up pieces that are right for your home. 'It's precisely the contrast between old and new, unusual and utilitarian that makes a scheme exciting,' says Mireille. 'We gathered these pieces over time.'*



The rungs of a wooden ladder provide handy linen storage next to Mireille's whitewashed ex-army dining table



Exposed beams and a pair of vintage wooden doors lend a country cabin atmosphere

# Free form

Much of the furniture in this summer cabin is unfitted, for an eclectic, casual feel. An added benefit is that pieces can easily be swapped around as the mood – and weather – dictates.

The standout scheme is undoubtedly the kitchen with its relaxed-retro vibe. The couple sourced the original 1960s units by Dutch brand Bruynzeel, picking them up for just €60, complete with granite worktops. ‘We found them online in the Netherlands and then had to transport them to France, before asking a friend to install them,’ says Mireille. She restored the units to their original mint and white colours, and added a new twist by creating a cupboard skirt using a fifties-inspired colourful fabric from IKEA featuring the bolder pastel hues found elsewhere in the house. A vintage tap from a local *brocante* and the original chequerboard pattern in the sink completes the informal feel.

Elsewhere, unusual, unfitted pieces have the benefit of being both moveable and eye-catching, from the wooden ladder resting against the kitchen wall to the crate that stores wood in the sitting room, which originates from Ringers, an old Dutch chocolate factory.

Vintage details, like the *brocante* tap and chequerboard sink, add extra character to the kitchen



Original 1960s Bruynzeel kitchen cabinets are complemented by a colourful retro-print sink skirt



## Perfect fit

To make the most of this unfitted style, look for pieces that marry form and function. Retrouvius ([retrovius.com](http://retrovius.com)) is a good source of unusual repurposed pieces with storage potential, from industrial shelving to shop cabinets. ‘Keep floors and walls white,’ advises Mireille. ‘Then every piece, old or new, will look good.’

# Inside out

For Mireille, an enticing outdoor scheme is just as important as a comfortable yet functional interior. In the summer, the family treats the garden as an extended living space, with separate zones for dining, cooking, relaxing and napping. 'The first thing we do when we arrive is have a long sleep,' smiles Mireille. 'It's so silent that all you can hear is birdsong. This place makes you relax to the max.' 'Slow down' is the family's motto, so they take plenty of time over breakfast and lunch, read books, swim in the nearby lake, doze in the hammock, pick fruit, garden and chop wood. 'We'll also invite local friends over or visit a Sunday antiques market,' adds Mireille.

All the garden furniture – from the mismatched metal bistro chairs to the dining table – was found at local *brocantes*, complemented by tableware from Dutch brands and glassware from IKEA. The family also often pulls the kitchen table and chairs out into the garden to use. 'This home has grown with us as a family,' reflects Mireille. 'As the girls are older now, they'll soon start to visit with their own friends, and it will begin a new chapter. We will always love this place.'



Meals take place under the fruit trees, where a vintage dining table is covered with colourful linens

## In the zone

Apply the same principles to furnishing your outdoor space that you would to an interiors scheme. Delineate the area, creating a zone for dining, an area of low, comfortable seating for relaxing, perhaps anchored by an outdoor rug, and a separate chillout space in the shade – a hammock strung between trees or a secluded, shaded daybed is ideal.

## MIREILLE'S SOURCEBOOK

**Hema** Go-to store for homeware essentials, from practical cookware to colourful outdoor dining ([hema.com](http://hema.com)).

**Pip Studio** Dutch design emporium specialising in bedlinen, tableware and wallpaper ([pipstudio.com](http://pipstudio.com)).

**Return to Sender** Sustainable textiles, ceramics, lighting and furniture available online via a number of retailers ([trouva.com](http://trouva.com)).

**Sissy-Boy Homeland** Seller of Dutch homeware, from woven accessories to Ikat textiles ([sissy-boy.com](http://sissy-boy.com)).



Reader's Home

# CALIFORNIA DREAMING

The dreamy southwestern boho home of Crystal McElroy incorporates minimal Californian desert style, mid-century design and gentle elements of nature to create a calming space

WORDS ALICE ROBERTON IMAGES © CRYSTAL McELROY





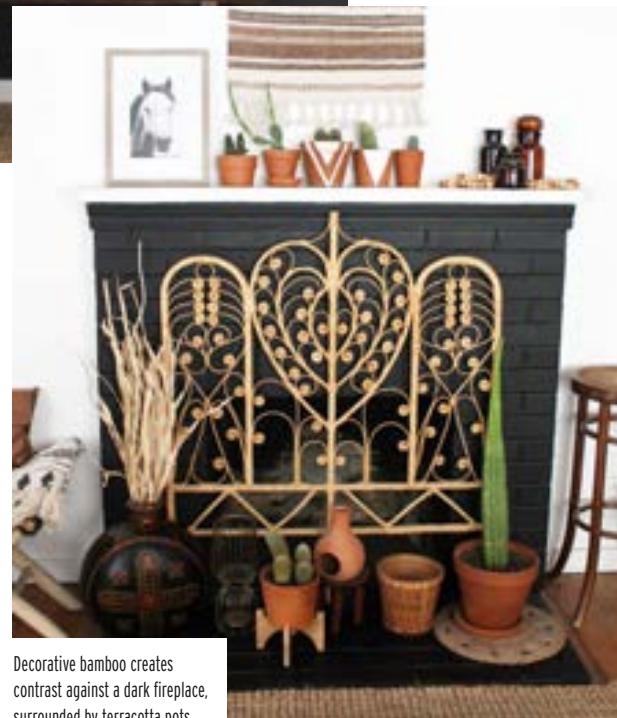
Potted cacti, salvaged driftwood and macramé planters lend desert style to the dining room



A black accent wall makes a feature of a rustic wooden coat rack and stool



The monochrome interior is enhanced by occasional geometric textiles



Decorative bamboo creates contrast against a dark fireplace, surrounded by terracotta pots



Thrifted baskets are displayed above Crystal's favourite Drexel chest of drawers

**Family home:** Crystal McElroy's Californian home that she shares with her mother, husband Steve and son Landon was built in 1948 and bought by her father in 2001. 'I was a teenager in high school when we moved to Vacaville from nearby Napa Valley. After my father passed away in 2015 I moved back in with my family. The house was in pretty rough shape, so I started slowly fixing, painting and doing DIY projects,' explains Crystal. A fan of clean, airy spaces, she set about whitewashing the interior to brighten it up and give an enhanced sense of space. 'White walls work wonders to transform an interior, although I have to admit to loving a dark accent wall for contrast.'

**Desert chic:** Crystal's style has a 'modern organic' feel to it. With a minimal take on furnishing, she places geometric patterns alongside natural elements. 'I love many different styles, but what has been a theme here is southwestern boho,' she says. 'For me this is a mixture of simple desert décor style with Aztec patterns, warm terracotta tones, natural materials and textures such as wicker, bamboo, wood and macramé. The look is topped off with potted succulent and cactus plants. Bringing nature into the home definitely helps to create a calming space.'

**Waste not, want not:** Many of Crystal's home projects start with what she has to hand. 'I like to make the most of what I already have, and adapt or paint things to bring them up to date. My father loved recycling and salvaging things, and I

really enjoy looking through his shed to find old things to use around the house – I often turn my hand to DIY and like mixing old with new.' As an avid thrifter, Crystal is always on the lookout for a bargain. 'I love mid-century modern. My best piece is the large Drexel chest of drawers in the living room. This was a roadside find that a neighbour had left on the kerb; it was in amazing condition and needed next to no work doing on it. It's something I know I'll keep forever.'

**Collector instinct:** Baskets feature heavily in Crystal's home and are deployed through the house as decorative items, to house potted plants and for storage, so it's no surprise to find out she has a weakness for collecting them. 'I've been collecting thrifted baskets for a while now and when on my weekend treasure hunts I'm always

on the lookout. Even if I don't need them that week I never know when I might – or feel the urge to make a fun basket wall display like the one in my living room!' 

>> Instagram @the.thrifty.photog



Kate's collection of portraits came from the estate sale of artist and illustrator Sanford Kossin

# LOCAL COLOUR

Vintage collections, layered textures and wild colour make for an inviting New York home

WORDS CASSIE FAIRY IMAGES © KATE PEARCE

**K**ate Pearce's home is a maximalist explosion of colour, carefully curated collections and classic design. Each wall displays original vintage artwork, every seat is made inviting with plump tapestry cushions, and layers of textured rugs are soft underfoot. Even her dark library wall is artfully arranged with colour-coordinated books, retro ornaments and lush house plants. Looking around Kate's home in the New York suburbs, it's clear to see that this content creator and vintage shop owner has an eye for retro design.

Over the three years since Kate and her husband bought their fixer-upper home, the couple have developed their renovation skills and Kate has grown into an experienced stylist, whose interior photographs have attracted over 50,000 followers on Instagram. 'When we started out, we knew how to do very little, but we have now YouTubed and Googled our way into a fairly deep knowledge base in construction and restoration,' says Kate.

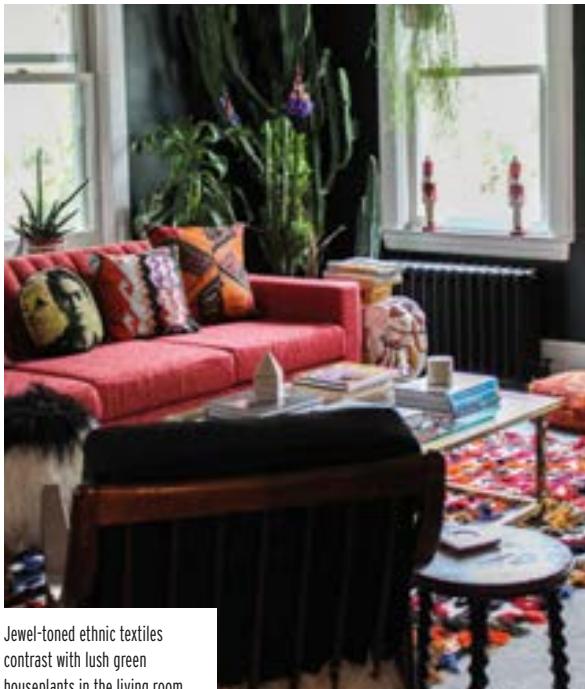
Despite the shabby condition of the property, the Long Island location was a clincher for the couple. Within commuting distance of Manhattan, it was convenient for Kate's husband's job in finance, and the downtown location offered a suburban lifestyle with the feel of a small city. Even though it's been three years of renovation, with walls knocked down to create an open-plan dining room and a complete overhaul of the kitchen that took four months, Kate hasn't been deterred and has many future plans for their home. The couple are currently working on an attic conversion to create a guest room with ensuite, and later plan to demolish the poorly built 1950s back room to rebuild a two-storey extension from the foundations up.

Kate's advice for tackling a home in need of renovation? 'I would say marry a partner who's handy with renovations!' she laughs. 'Perhaps more practical words of advice would be to assure you that any information you will need to tackle nearly any project is available on YouTube.'

»»»



An antique dining table from  
Kate's grandmother is surrounded  
by a mix of vintage chairs



Jewel-toned ethnic textiles contrast with lush green houseplants in the living room

Kate renovated her Long Island home with her husband, learning new DIY skills thanks to YouTube tutorials



## AUTHENTIC APPEAL

Having chosen the property because it was one of the cheapest homes on the market in their preferred area, the couple were fully prepared for the amount of renovation required, half-expecting to find the lead paint, cloth wiring and holes in the kitchen sub-floor they uncovered. They could overlook the tatty kitchen and ramshackle back extension to appreciate the American old world charm of the 1910 building. 'There were beautiful details like old, thick mouldings, pocket doors, high ceilings and large windows,' recalls Kate. 'We've salvaged all of those features as we've gone from room to room renovating, but every space has needed a complete overhaul.'

To create a flow around the ground floor, Kate decided to remove the wall between the kitchen and dining room. Each room now opens onto at least one other, so Kate has carefully considered the finish and furnishings in each space. Contrasting window frames in each room make a feature of the original sashes, whether white on dark in the living room or black frames against fresh white walls in the dining room, and her signature orange accent colour features in each room. As old carpets were ripped up, the couple uncovered original hardwood flooring that Kate has made a feature of with waxes and stains to bring out the woodgrain. Soft rugs provide a splash of colour, as well as protecting the flooring in high-traffic areas.

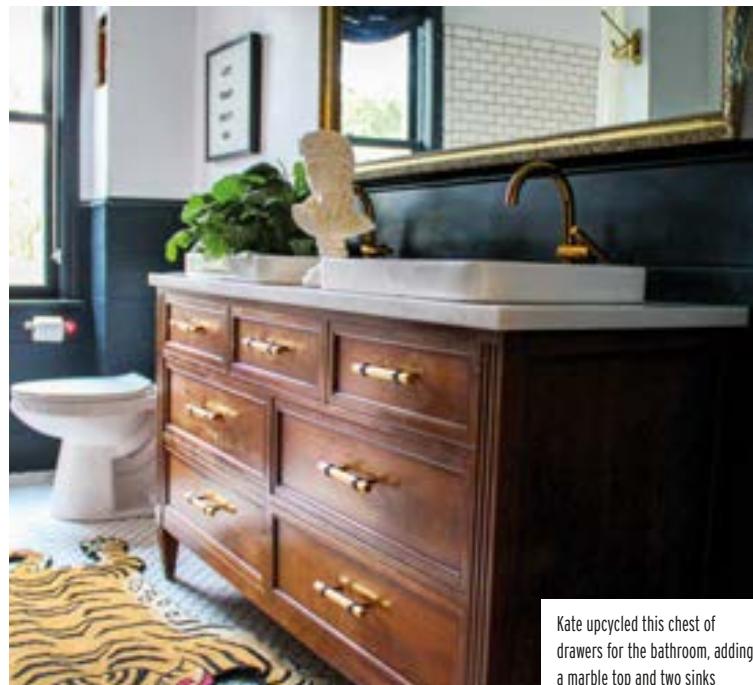


Monochrome walls and ceilings provide a backdrop for colourful cushions, rugs and pictures

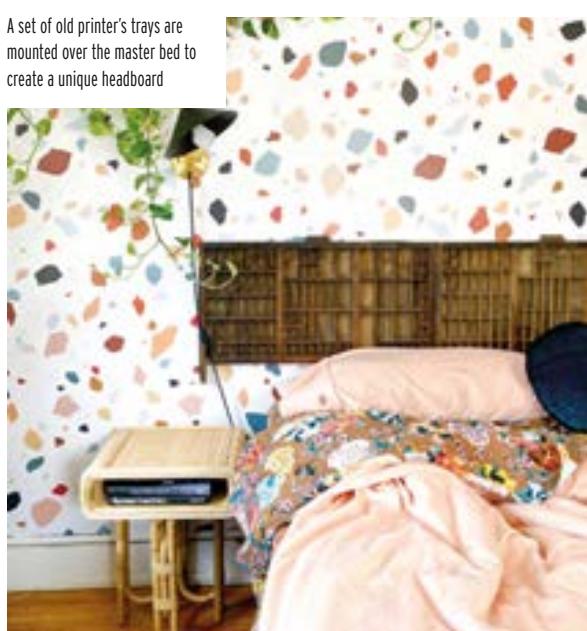




Bought second-hand, this chest in the children's room is painted in Kate's favourite shade of orange



Kate upcycled this chest of drawers for the bathroom, adding a marble top and two sinks



A set of old printer's trays are mounted over the master bed to create a unique headboard

## SECOND-HAND STYLE

Kate always looks for second-hand pieces when decorating her home, listing the imperfections, history and rarity of items as the lure behind her strong affinity for vintage furniture and accessories. 'I've come to be even more passionate about vintage and reclaimed items because of the state of climate change and the dire need for society to adjust our methods of consumption. Plus, thrifited or reused items are nearly always less expensive than new.'

The entire house is filled with rescued pieces that Kate and her husband have either painted, refinished or used in an alternative way. The kitchen island and chunky open shelving were made using wood reclaimed from an 1800s barn in Connecticut, and the headboard in the master bedroom was Kate's brainwave idea of attaching old printer's drawers to the wall. 'It took about 10 minutes and cost about \$20!' Even the compact bathroom got the upcycling treatment when Kate found a mid-century chest of drawers for \$40, salvaged a slab of scrap marble and added two sinks on top to create a one-of-a-kind vanity unit.

You'd be forgiven for thinking that a vibrant chest of drawers in the children's bedroom was a makeover project, but it was already painted in Kate's favourite orange colour when she bought it from a thrift store. Positioned in front of the Cole & Sons jungle wallpaper, it picks out the flowers from the print and looks made for the space.



The kitchen shelving and island are made from timber reclaimed from a 19th-century barn



## KATE'S SOURCEBOOK

**Community Thrift** Preloved store in Kate's town Huntingdon ([thriftstores.net](http://thriftstores.net)); see Emmaus for charity stores in the UK ([emmaus.org.uk](http://emmaus.org.uk)).

**Curated Home Décor** Kate has put together a collection of stylish décor that blends contemporary, classic and vintage styles for this website ([curatedhomedecor](http://curatedhomedecor)); Lesser Spotted have a similar collection ([lesser-spotted.co.uk](http://lesser-spotted.co.uk)).

**Farrow & Ball** Eco-friendly water-based paint formulas; Kate used Studio Green in the living room ([farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)).

**Kazimah** US-based retailer of vintage handmade carpets and tapestry cushions ([kazimah.com](http://kazimah.com)).

**Pepe & Carols** Brass hardware and light fittings handmade in the US ([pepe-carols.myshopify.com](http://pepe-carols.myshopify.com)); UK-based Skinflint have a great selection of reclaimed industrial lighting ([skinflintdesign.com](http://skinflintdesign.com)).

**Secondhand Stories** Vintage and mid-century specialists listed on Chairish, where Kate sourced her kitchen bar chairs ([chairish.com/shop/secondhand-stories](http://chairish.com/shop/secondhand-stories)); find similar at 1st Dibs ([1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)).

**Suite Pieces** US retailer of DIY supplies and interior design, sharing how-to upcycling videos online; go to Fusion Mineral Paint for similar tutorials ([fusionmineralpaint.uk](http://fusionmineralpaint.uk)).

» Read Kate's blog and visit her online shop at [katepearcevintage.com](http://katepearcevintage.com); follow her on Instagram @KatePearceVintage

The hallway has a retro vibe, with a graphic mural creating the wow factor when you step into the house



The living room library, painted in Farrow & Ball's Studio Green, is Kate's favourite place to relax

A Moroccan rug and kaleidoscope-print blinds bring vibrant pattern and colour into the classic kitchen



## PERSONALISED DÉCOR

The key to Kate's look is using a minimalist palette of white and dark paint on the walls and mouldings, and then filling the rooms with patterned Moroccan, Turkish and Persian rugs, vibrant accessories and pops of colour. This monochrome base enables her to try out pieces she comes across while sourcing items for her shop. 'I literally just bring everything home, and if it doesn't work, I sell it,' she explains. Kate believes that if you shop second-hand and keep the financial commitment low, you can make buy-and-try work. 'Everyone can have a "shop" these days. It's so easy to sell unwanted items on Facebook Marketplace or Instagram,' she says.

The orange door and bold painted mural in the hallway create an instantly retro vibe when you step into the home. Kaleidoscopic prints on the blinds in the kitchen and a wall of patterned tiles add to this psychedelic feeling as you move through the rooms. Relaxation areas are a little more subdued in tone but are no less maximalist, with brass light fittings and patterned soft furnishings. 'My favourite space is our newly renovated living room. We created a library wall that is filled with old books, plants and vintage furniture and it's just the most relaxing space to sit down with a magazine and a cup of tea.' ®

Farrow & Ball's Charlotte's Locks creates a bold statement on the front door and walls



# SPIRIT OF SALVAGE

Here we salute the people, yards, products and places that make the UK salvage scene thrive

**'I love the idea of rescuing an item that has been languishing unnoticed and uncared for. I get great enjoyment out of cleaning, repairing, refurbishing and researching it, before selling on to someone who will really appreciate it and treat it as a prize possession'** Clare Parritt, [gingertoms.co.uk](http://gingertoms.co.uk)



## A MINUTE WITH... SOPHIE WARREN OF VINTAGE FRENCH

Sentimentality drives Sophie Warren's passion for old and characterful interiors. 'From memories of my grandfather's favourite armchair to the watercolours on my great-grandmother's walls, I love to marry the warmth of preloved items with more modern fittings,' she says.

Sourcing stock from France, Sophie describes visiting 'an Aladdin's cave' to find the best quality vintage and reclaimed pieces. At Vintage French, you'll find everything from dining tables and shop counters to traditional

bistro chairs. Each with a story.

'I sourced a beautiful leather-bound trunk and inside I found the previous owner's packing list,' she says. 'Deeper in the trunk we found the clothes itemised on that list. They were too small to fit on a standard mannequin for photographing, but I have a petite frame so I tried them on. To my surprise they could've been made to measure for me, rather than for the woman who'd had them made over 100 years ago! I've worn them many times since.'

[vintagefrench.com](http://vintagefrench.com)



Theatre seats from a cinema in central France

## THE BUTLER DID IT

If you'd like your home to have a Downton Abbey vibe, perhaps installing a reclaimed servants' bell box will do the trick? This vintage box, dating from the 1940s, was picked up at an antiques fair by Darron Hargreaves from Railway Cottage Antiques.

'The dealer told me it's from a block of flats in West Kensington,' says Darron. 'I've sold quite a few of these in the past, some from private houses, hotels, pubs and even doctors' surgeries. Whilst room numbers, and "Bedroom" or "Sitting Room" are commonly seen, I've had some very unusual names including "Matron's Office", "Snug Bar", "Gun Room" and more besides!'

This is a unique decorative item and would really come to life if you could persuade a member of your household to come running when you call!

○ [railwaycottageantiques.com](http://railwaycottageantiques.com)



A 1940s servants' bell box sourced from a block of West Kensington flats, £125



Poole fish market crates from the 1930s make versatile storage, furniture or shelving

## FISH STOCKS

The fishing industry has been a major part of Poole's past – and, in an unusual discovery at Reginald Ballum, we spotted a piece of that history for you to own. Reginald Ballum, a stunning little shop in Worthing, West Sussex, selling a collection of vintage, decorative and industrial salvage, has a selection of fish market boxes dating from the 1930s, sourced from the Dorset coastal town.

'They're really lovely and were in use in Poole Harbour,' says a spokesperson from Reginald Ballum. 'They're super-strong and sturdy – and they only smell fishy when we first get them! Before they go on sale we clean and treat them, so the smell goes completely.'

Customers have bought and used the printed fish boxes for kitchen shelving, shoe rack storage, as headboards for beds and bench seating. Reginald Ballum has made bespoke kitchen islands with them too, while others have used them as planters, individual storage for bottles, and turned upside down as side tables.

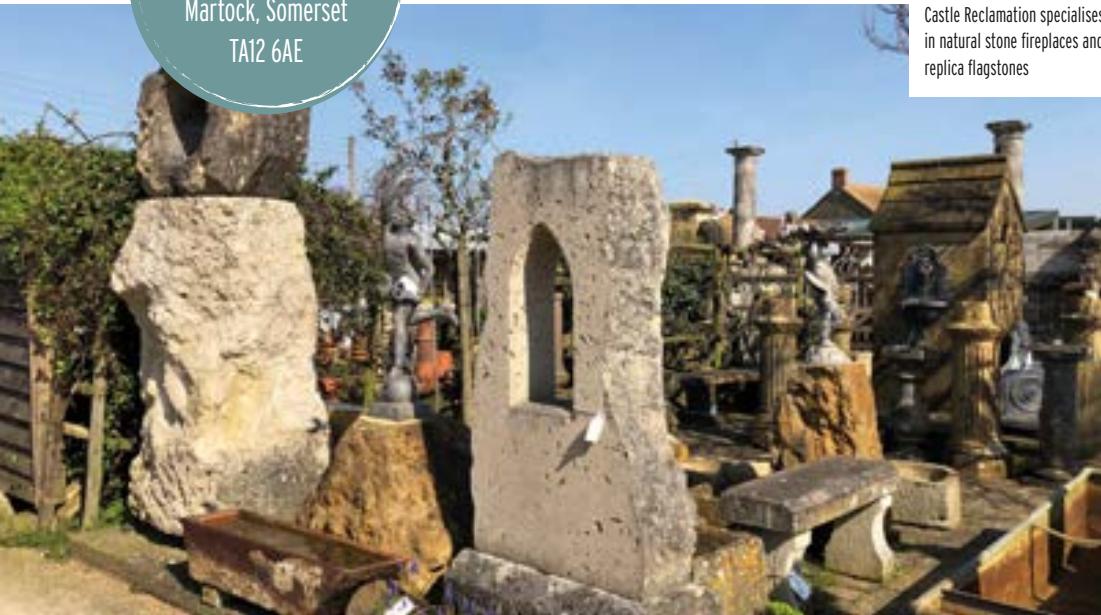
○ [reginaldballum.co.uk](http://reginaldballum.co.uk)



# YARD FOCUS

We spoke to Adrian Wills and Terry Dance from  
Castle Reclamation in Somerset

Castle Reclamation,  
Parrett Works,  
Martock, Somerset  
TA12 6AE



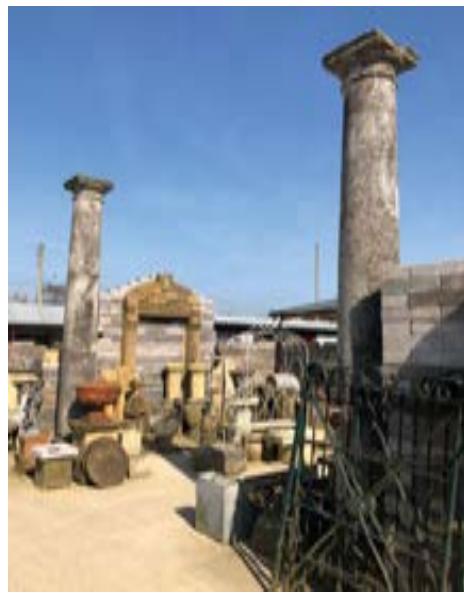
**Describe your yard in three words.**  
Artisan, organised and fascinating.

**What's the story behind Castle Reclamation?**  
We started in 1989 and have been trading for 14 years. Previously we both worked in the building industry, specialising in conservation work and concentrating on barn conversions and extensions – and that included the National Trust flagship manors of Barrington Court and Montacute House.

**How did you make the move into reclamation?**  
Our conservation work meant we kept large stocks of reclaimed building materials and stone – and such was the demand from both trade and private customers that eventually we gave up building to specialise in architectural reclamation.

**What will customers find at the yard?**  
You'll find flagstones, fireplaces, furniture, oak and elm flooring, architectural and garden items, plus building stone, bricks, slates, roof and ridge tiles. Our oak flooring is one of the best-selling items we have.

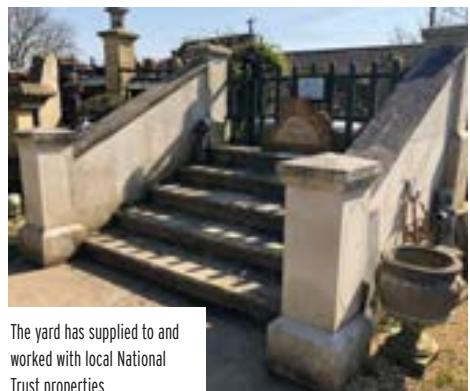
**Where do you source your stock?**  
Our stock is mostly sourced locally and over the years we've developed a network of



demolition companies and trade suppliers, who we work with.

**You also create replicas of some items.**  
Yes, we have two other businesses: Castle Flagstones, where moulds have been taken from original flagstone flooring and recreated in exact detail, and Castle Furniture, where we reproduce 16th- and 17th-century

Castle Reclamation specialises in natural stone fireplaces and replica flagstones



The yard has supplied to and worked with local National Trust properties

furniture such as oak four-poster beds and panelled rooms. All the businesses are situated at Parrett Works in Martock.

**What's one of the most unusual items you've sourced?**

We discovered an ancient oak plank and muntin screen with 'witch markings' carved into it. It's dated 16th to 17th century and is from an old Somerset farmhouse.

**Have you worked on any interesting projects?**

In addition to working with local National Trust properties, we've also made and fitted a panelled room in Poland with a secret door to a gun room, as well as panelled rooms in a number of Scottish castles.

**What do you love about the industry?**

The variety of items that pass through the yard is fascinating. You never know what's coming in next! ☺

○ [castlereclamation.com](http://castlereclamation.com)

# LOVE SALVAGE



Welcome to our must-have map showing some of the UK's best salvage yards, with their details over the page

**1 Tobys Reclamation**  
Station Road, Exminster,  
Devon EX6 8DZ  
**t:** 01392 833499  
**w:** [tobysreclamation.com](http://tobysreclamation.com)

**2 Mongers Architectural Salvage**  
15 Market Place, Hingham,  
Norfolk NR9 4AF  
**t:** 01953 851868  
**w:** [mongersofhingham.co.uk](http://mongersofhingham.co.uk)

**3 Norfolk Reclaim**  
Helhoughton Road, Hempton,  
Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 7DY  
**t:** 01328 864743  
**w:** [norfolkreclaim.co.uk](http://norfolkreclaim.co.uk)

**4 The Reclaim & Salvage Company**  
North Sea House, Wollaston Road,  
Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2PD  
**t:** 01502 589111 or 07767 647242  
**w:** [reclaimandsalvage.co.uk](http://reclaimandsalvage.co.uk)

**5 Bath Reclamation**  
Home Farm, Newton St Loe,  
Nr Bath, Somerset BA2 9DA  
**t:** 07983 556757  
**w:** [bathreclamation.co.uk](http://bathreclamation.co.uk)

**6 Norfolk Antique & Reclamation Centre**  
Woolseys Farm, Salhouse Road,  
Paxworth, Norfolk NR13 6JH  
**t:** 01603 559085  
**w:** [norfolkreclamation.co.uk](http://norfolkreclamation.co.uk)

**7 Fenori Street Furniture & Architectural Salvage**  
Cattle Shed One, Goldenlands Farm,  
Punch Bowl Lane, Dorking,  
Surrey RH5 4DX  
**t:** 07403 787579  
**w:** [fenori.co.uk](http://fenori.co.uk)

**8 Dorset Reclamation**  
Cow Drove, Bere Regis,  
Dorset BH20 7JZ  
**t:** 01929 472200  
**w:** [dorsetreclamation.co.uk](http://dorsetreclamation.co.uk)

**9 Beeston Reclamation**  
Whitchurch Road, Beeston,  
Cheshire CW6 9NJ  
**t:** 01829 260299  
**w:** [beestonreclamation.co.uk](http://beestonreclamation.co.uk)

**10 Ribble Reclamation**  
Ducie Place, Off New Hall Lane,  
Preston, Lancashire PR1 4UJ  
**t:** 01772 794534  
**w:** [ribble-reclamation.co.uk](http://ribble-reclamation.co.uk)

**11 Warehouse 701**  
Fordhill Road, Rotherwas Industrial  
Estate, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 6NS  
**t:** 01432 375510  
**w:** [warehouse701.co.uk](http://warehouse701.co.uk)

**12 J Brant Reclamation**  
Lakeside Farm, Brimpton Road,  
Brimpton Common, Berkshire RG7 4RT  
**t:** 0118 981 3882  
**w:** [jbrant.co.uk](http://jbrant.co.uk)

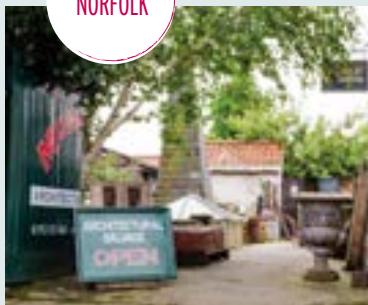




DEVON



SUFFOLK



NORFOLK

## 1 Tobys Reclamation

Based on the outskirts of the historic city of Exeter, Tobys Reclamation is on a one-acre site filled to the brim with all types of reclamation – from bricks to floorboards and fountains to antique furniture. They also do bespoke kitchens – and there's great coffee available to enjoy too!

**2 Mongers Architectural Salvage**  
Mongers has been established for over 20 years and they are specialists in antique sanitaryware. The extensive yard and showrooms have large stocks of baths, basins and toilets, as well as fireplaces, doors and radiators. Their workshops restore a wide range of architectural salvage, in order that it can be reused in a modern environment.



NORFOLK

## 3 Norfolk Reclaim

If you're looking for something vintage, pre-owned or reclaimed for your home or garden, look no further than Norfolk Reclaim. They have different areas for customers to browse, including a huge selection of floor tiles, timber flooring, new and reclaimed bricks, garden furniture, doors and interior furniture.

## 4 The Reclaim & Salvage Company

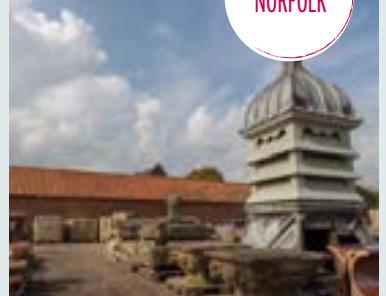
The Reclaim & Salvage Company operates from a collection of warehouses in the coastal town of Lowestoft. Trading for 40 years from the same site and with three generations of the family involved in the business, they can offer plenty of advice on how to find and achieve the item and look you want, at a price you can afford.

## 5 Bath Reclamation

Based outside Bath in the village of Newton St Loe, Bath Reclamation is owned and run by Cary Morgan, formerly of Walcot Reclamation, with 34 years of experience. The yard specialises in Bath stone, paving, flooring, roofing and bricks, but are happy to source all types of reclaimed building materials. Open by appointment.



SOMERSET



NORFOLK

## 6 Norfolk Antique & Reclamation Centre

Located alongside the Norfolk Broads in picturesque countryside, Norfolk Antique & Reclamation Centre houses a labyrinth of inspirational items, including architectural salvage such as bricks, doors, urns and timber, as well as fine interior antiquities and curiosities.



**What I love about working with salvage** is that every day is different. You don't know what you might find in the way of **unusual items**, or what **quirky item** you are going to sell


**SURREY**

### 7 Fenori Street Furniture & Architectural Salvage

Fenori Salvage is located just outside the historic market town of Dorking in Surrey. They specialise in house clearance, as well as reclaiming, recycling and restoring our road and highways' street furniture heritage, and always have a wide range of cast-iron lamp posts, lamps, lanterns, bollards, road and street signs in stock.


**DORSET**

### 8 Dorset Reclamation

A well organised yard, Dorset Reclamation specialises in traditional reclaimed building materials, including bricks, flagstones, floorboards and beams, as well as architectural antiques, such as chimney pieces, sanitaryware, garden ornaments and doors. For Aga fans, they sell refurbished cookers and can offer a re-enamelling and electric conversion service.


**CHESTER**

### 9 Beeston Reclamation

You'll find a huge variety of stock at this six-acre site, from antiques, interior design items and garden features to bricks, Yorkstone, setts and beams – the list is endless! So whether you're looking for a decorative item for your home or garden, or building a new house out of reclaimed materials, Beeston Reclamation is the place to visit.


**LANCASHIRE**

### 10 Ribble Reclamation

Long-established Lancashire-based Ribble Reclamation specialises in the supply of reclaimed Yorkstone flags and floors, granite setts and cast-iron radiators. The four-acre site contains a large selection of quality building materials and includes several showrooms and storehouses. Nationwide delivery available. Open six days a week.


**HEREFORDSHIRE**

### 11 Warehouse 701

Warehouse 701 has been trading architectural salvage since 1954. They have now grown to include an expansive range of new and recrafted items, complementing their reclaimed building and garden features. Fifteen diverse showrooms set in a former wartime munitions factory – a visit to Warehouse 701 will be an inspiration.


**BERKSHIRE**

### 12 J Brant Reclamation

With over 30 years in the reclamation business, J Brant has a wealth of experience and knowledge. They are specialists in traditional building materials and architectural salvage, supplying everyone from interior designers to DIY enthusiasts, and an essential place to visit for the authentic restoration of any period property.

that day. It's by far the **most interesting business** anyone could possibly be involved in! **Jeff Pearce, reclaimedworld.com**



'Material Tenderness' was chosen to feature in the Royal Academy Summer Show 2018, curated by Grayson Perry



# IN STITCHES

Michelle Holmes takes mismatched swatches of found fabric to create characters and worlds that you long to escape into

WORDS ANDREINA CORDANI | IMAGES © STEVE BOND IMAGES

**S**ome people tell their stories with words or pictures, but Michelle Holmes weaves hers with thread. She invites you to peek through the door of a cosy, old-fashioned haberdashery, gaze past city chimney pots at a fantastical moon or take tea with Betty, the elegant ladylike figure who often pops up in her machine-embroidered sketches. Working in a rural studio on the Leicestershire/Derbyshire border, she is inspired by the natural and human world alike, creating work to lose yourself in. And it's all done with odds and ends of vintage fabrics.

**Do you find using older fabric is more effective than buying new?**

Fabric grows; it develops this quality of age. I prefer it when it's not quite so fresh and bright; it's quite important that it's had a bit of a life. I see my work as collage, bringing

together those vintage fabrics with memories embedded into them. Textiles can be so evocative: I remember finding little handmade lavender bags amongst my grandmother's clothes with beautiful 1940s prints – a tiny scrap of a dress she might have worn.

So often people will see my work and say, 'Oh, that reminds me of a skirt I had' or someone's wallpaper. I want the viewer to look at my pieces and make their own story within them. I have my own idea in my head when I embroider a figure, but then a customer will say, 'That's just how my daughter sits' or something similar. It can be different from the story I set out to tell, but that doesn't matter.

**Where does your inspiration come from?**

I've always stitched. My grandma stitched and my mum used to make clothes for me – she'd do things like turn my old





Always with a sketchbook to hand, Michelle captures images to inspire her next piece

**'I see my work as collage, bringing together vintage fabrics with memories embedded'**



Betty was created as a regular character to showcase Michelle's work on Facebook



A cubbyhole collection of found odds and ends that often find their way into each artwork

nineties into party dresses by adding things to them, which I was really embarrassed about at the time! But I only got into machine embroidery in my final year studying textiles at Loughborough University, as a way of telling stories. That's when I started collecting vintage fabric, which was considered quite old-fashioned back then.

Now I get ideas from anywhere. I was in East Sussex one evening and saw this little flower hut. Peering in, it looked like it was from the 1930s or something. I took a photo and a piece just grew out of that. My natural-world pieces are influenced by the rural valley where I live. At wintertime the skies are dark and the moon looks like it's right at the top of the field, so the moon pieces have been inspired by that.

#### Where do you source your materials?

People give me unwanted garments. Sometimes a friend will be wearing something and I'll ask if I can have it when they've finished with it. A few years ago a second-generation tailor in Leicester gave me all the offcuts he and his father had

saved, from all these high-end bespoke suits. They've been invaluable. A friend also got me some amazing fabrics from a theatrical wardrobe sale in Stratford; I keep wondering what play each piece appeared in!

I regularly trawl vintage shops looking for silk ties. The backs of the fabric are often jacquard weave and really beautiful when you undo them. One of my textile heroes, Janet Bolton, once advised me to always look at the reverse of fabrics – you don't have to use the 'right side'.

#### How do you go about making a piece?

I have a strange catalogue in my head of all the fabrics I have and when an idea comes I can spend ages searching for a piece – that one piece I know I have somewhere! Then I make a box for the project. A local deli saves their wooden cheese boxes for me; they're really nice and just right for keeping fragments inside. Even after something's been made the offcuts go back into the box to remind me of that piece. Most of my work is free-motion stitching on a Bernina sewing machine – I





'The Costume Museum' includes whimsical touches, such as the seamstress's tape measure



'The Seedsman' combines embroidered plants and flowers with scraps of floral fabric

**'I got into machine embroidery as a way of telling stories'**



think my newest one is about 30 years old – but there are some hand-stitch elements too.

**How did you come to create your Betty character?**

I'd had an idea for some time about taking one figure and having her go out and do different things. Then when I joined Facebook I didn't quite know what to make of it so I decided to embroider this character every week, based on something I've been thinking about or that's going on around me. The first week I'd been walking on a beach in Norfolk and had been stepping on slippery pebbles, so I did this figure carefully treading over these stones to the sea. I keep it focused on little things, like her making a coffee or thinking, 'Oh no, I have to clean'.

I've been selling Betty hand-stitch embroidery kits as a sideline from my shop near Ashby de la Zouch, but during



Layers of stitching create the feathery body of a blackbird on a vintage offcut of tailor's suiting

Old-fashioned shopfronts are a favourite theme, here reusing clothing labels as store signs

lockdown I mentioned them on Facebook and things went a bit crazy. I had orders coming in from all over the world and only 20 kits! I ordered more and repackaged them in an envelope so they'd fit through letterboxes. It's been one really nice thing about lockdown, chatting to people in Connecticut or somewhere about their kit.

**What are your future plans?**

More embroidery kits for Christmas, definitely, and I'm working on an interesting new commission. The customer is a biologist – he bought one of my moons – and he's now asked me to make a white blood cell which does look remarkably like the moon. I'm doing the research now and looking forward to getting started. ☺

» [archangelstudio.co.uk](http://archangelstudio.co.uk)

Different fabrics add depth and texture, from shiny satin and soft velvet to loosely woven linen



Buttons, lace and trimmed selvedge labelling have become part of 'Haberdashery Shop'



'Full Moon Above the Sand Dunes' is part of a series of atmospheric lunar landscapes

# AN INSTA AFFAIR

When Covid-19 and lockdown descended, it brought with it a halt to antiques fairs and markets as we know and love them. Undeterred, many of the UK's community of organisers, sellers and buyers took to Instagram with a brave new set of online events. Reclaim's Alice Roberton was on that virtual front line, and reports back

**T**he old English proverb 'necessity is the mother of invention' comes to mind as I think back to early March, when a palpable feeling of desperation rippled through the antiques, vintage and flea market scene. The UK trade has taken an unprecedented hit with Covid-19, lockdown and the halt of on-the-ground events, leaving a nation of treasure hunters stuck indoors with time on their hands to switch up their interiors and nowhere to physically buy. Worse, there's been a drastic hit to the livelihoods of dealers and organisers, a content crisis for people who promote events, and a gaping hole for those who regularly scour fairs and markets.

Three months ago, Covid-19 felt desperate. But what transpired is pioneering. Fairs began popping up on Instagram and a whole new world of dealers and wares burst through grids, stories and highlights, straight into buyers' homes. In a world abruptly turned from actual to virtual, the Insta fair concept made perfect sense and as organisers took the gamble on offering a temporary fix, it became apparent that this new idea is here to stay.

With the visual, social and community spirit of Instagram perfectly mirroring that of the trade, it was soon clear that an essence of the buzz and personal interaction of buying at a real fair could be captured virtually. Early to take to Instagram was Virtual Vintage Fair @virtualvintagefair, an



© THE FRENCH SHED





Rustic gardenalia from The French  
Shed, exhibiting at Dorset Brocante's  
Insta Brocante

Based in the Cotswolds, The Hoarding Hare now showcases its bygones on Arthur Swallow Insta events



© THE HOARDING HARE @THEBOARDINGHARE

event which seamlessly sprang out of nowhere on 20 March from a dormant account. Showcasing 35 carefully selected vintage dealers, the account gained traction, reaching 20,000 by the end of June. Then came the Dorset Brocante's Insta Brocante @thedorsetbrocante on 3 May, an online version of a boutique event hosting small vintage and artisan businesses. Having run on-the-ground fairs since 1999, Arthur Swallow Fairs took an event scheduled for North Yorkshire onto Instagram @asfairs, which lifted the spirits of troubled dealers and disappointed buyers and helped keep trade going. Popular London events Pop Up Vintage Fairs, the Hackney Flea Market and So Last Century, along with a whole host of small regional events, went virtual. Amid a changed trading landscape, Insta fairs became the hero of the hour.

#### ARTHUR SWALLOW FAIRS: INSTA DECORATIVE HOME & SALVAGE SHOW

Having worked for Arthur Swallow Fairs for several years managing their PR and social media, lockdown brought with it a surge of requests for an Insta event and I felt I had to help. Concerned how dealers would survive without the opportunity to sell at fairs and how regular visitors would source beautiful things for the home, on 9 May I took the plunge to host the first Decorative Home & Salvage Show of the summer season on Instagram. The Insta Decorative Home & Salvage Show was born. Giving myself just 12 days to pull an event together, which I was determined would match the quality of the real-life version, I steered a ship of 43 willing dealers, many of whom had little experience of selling on Instagram. Navigating uncharted territory, we worked

collaboratively and pulled it off, repeating the process with 60 dealers on 30 May with great success.

Insta fairs run much like their real counterparts. Gates to fields and doors to halls are swapped for virtual access to a roster of dealers who have carefully curated and held stock specially. It was essential that the spirit of the antiques and vintage fair was captured, so events were set with opening times when stock would be available to purchase – creating great excitement for buyers. Dealers got creative and set up stands at home to photograph, with the images posted on our grid and stories. Each dealer had an introductory biography and a click-through to their account. It was a simple concept, but tricky to coordinate.

The visual impact was enticing and buyers flocked to snap up furniture, art, lighting, textiles, gardenalia and much more, all from the comfort of their homes. The stock that appeared was a feast for lockdown eyes and dealers began to use Instagram Live and videos to introduce themselves and their wares. When I interviewed antiques dealer and *Salvage Hunters* presenter Drew Pritchard in a Live for @asfairs during lockdown, he said, 'If someone set out to invent the perfect place to sell antiques they would invent Instagram.' And he was right. Insta fairs, which remain online to be dipped back into at any time, are here to stay and, what's more, the general consensus is that 'actual' and 'virtual' events are set to be the perfect bedfellows. Arthur Swallow Fairs plan to run a calendar of both to bring even more antiques, salvage and vintage to buyers.

Check Instagram for the next early autumn event date.

» @asfairs #asfairsinstaevent



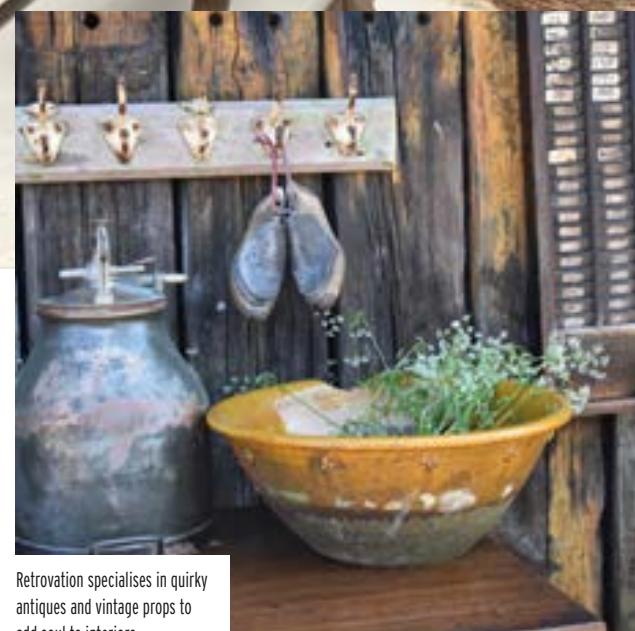


Styled settings, such as this one from Monkey & Bird, are a visual feast for online buyers

Insta offerings from Cunningham White's include Chinese planters and a 19th-century rhubarb force



©CUNNINGHAMWHITE ©CUNNINGHAMWHITE



Retrovation specialises in quirky antiques and vintage props to add soul to interiors

©RETROVATION @RETROVATION

**‘the consensus is that actual and virtual events are set to be the perfect bedfellows’**





A post from Vintage Curator Interiors, part of the daily promotion on Virtual Vintage Fair

## VIRTUAL VINTAGE FAIR

Launched by antiques dealers Sam Hansard and Tamara Broido, who together run Your Antique Sourcing Studio ([yourantiquessourcingstudio.com](http://yourantiquessourcingstudio.com)), Virtual Vintage Fair hosts 35 antiques and vintage dealers who showcase pieces daily. The format is that two dealers submit a post and story twice a day – one in the morning and one in the evening – [@virtualvintagefair](https://www.instagram.com/virtualvintagefair). Creating images that echo the style of the fairs and *brocantes* that customers would normally visit, Instagram acts as a portal through which to discover a collection of dealers. Sales are made directly with the dealer via their Instagram, website, Etsy or other online platform.

‘We created Virtual Vintage Fair two days before Covid-19 lockdown in the face of fairs and markets closing,’ Sam explains. ‘We were hugely motivated by the desire to help some of those we’d met along the way, and managed to get the event off the ground in only 48 hours. The idea was welcomed with open arms by both buyers and sellers; however, I think we underestimated the popularity and amount of work involved. Navigating something brand new whilst ensuring everyone had the skill to sell online was no mean feat!'

A perpetual event with daily posting and promotion, it’s become a full-time job for the pair. Buyers get the opportunity to view an eclectic and carefully edited vintage stall from their home, wherever they are in the world, and dealers get valuable exposure and sales. ‘The fair has provided another route to market for the dealers that customers have a hunger



Images from All Things Counter help recreate the style of a vintage fair

for. It’s helped dealers tap into a global audience and buyers source for the home,’ says Tamara. ‘Of course, there’s nothing quite like the buzz and adrenaline of a real fair – especially when you find that special piece at the right price – but the Insta fair experience gives the buyer access to a wide range of wonderfully curated pieces. Once things settle back into some kind of normality, we anticipate that actual and virtual fairs will complement each other.’

» [@virtualvintagefair #virtualvintagefair](https://www.instagram.com/virtualvintagefair)



© FAULKNER &amp; FINCH @FAULKNERANDFINCH

Faulkner & Finch, a So Last Century Insta dealer, offers artworks and decorative antiques

### SO LAST CENTURY 24-HOUR VIRTUAL VINTAGE FAIR

Launched on 29 March – the first weekend after lockdown began – by part-time vintage dealers and event organisers Alan Old and Alison Davis, this event showcased a handpicked selection of vintage traders exhibiting beautiful pieces at affordable prices. ‘The majority of our “real” events are held at indoor venues in London – we held our last fair in mid-March just before the shutters came down and lockdown began. It was obvious we couldn’t hold any more events until things changed and our thoughts quickly turned to how we could help dealers to continue trading, satisfy buyers and maintain the profile of So Last Century,’ says Alan.

Held on Instagram stories, this event hosts around 40 dealers who share up to four stories each on the day, using the @solastc handle as a tag. These posts are then re-shared in quick succession over the course of the two-hour event. ‘Customers can scroll through a series of around 150 stories featuring hundreds of amazing vintage pieces,’ explains Alan. ‘If they spot something they like, they contact the dealer directly to enquire and make a purchase. The challenges of pulling off an event like this were varied. First and foremost, we had to up our game on effectively using stories, so we could coach our exhibitors in doing the same. We have some amazing dealers selling the most wonderful pieces but not all of them are familiar with working online or with social media.’

One of the most notable things about this new wave of events is how much the profiles of dealers and fair organisers have been raised. ‘Our first event exceeded our expectations. There was a combined total of more than 50,000 views, we saw an increase in followers – as did the dealers – and we were delighted to receive lots of positive feedback from buyers. We’re starting to think of our Insta fairs as simply another platform where we bring talented dealers together to sell amazing vintage items.’

So Last Century will be holding virtual vintage fairs once a month @solastc and plan to continue them alongside real-world events.

» @solastc #solastcenturyvintagefair

### Insta fair dos and don'ts

**Check out the dealers** If there’s an exhibitor list, familiarise yourself with the dealers, check out their stock and follow those you like the look of. Keep watch on dealer and event organiser posts and stories for stock teasers.

**Be prepared** Before the event start time, make a list of what you’re looking for and have measurements to hand. Be ready with pen and paper to take notes.

**Buying and haggling** If you like something, buy it! Just like a real fair, items are generally one-offs and may sell if you walk away. Don’t haggle too much as the margin on antiques and vintage is often quite tight.

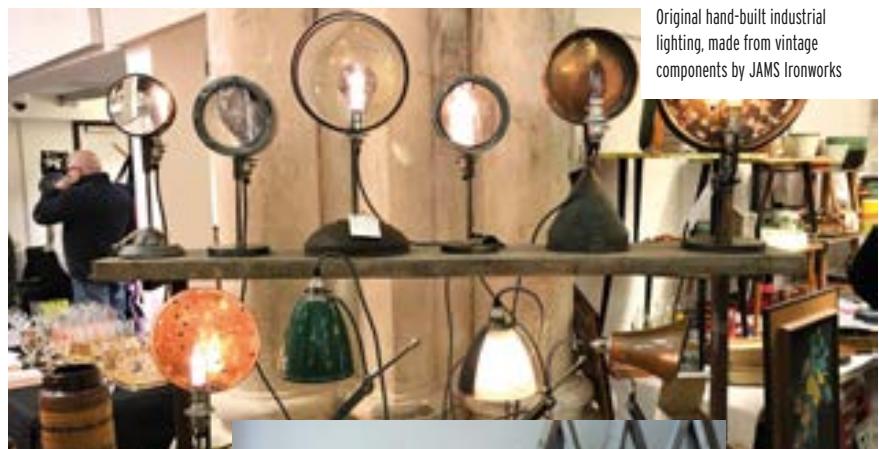
**Online browsing** Don’t rush looking. A smartphone screen isn’t big, so it’s easy to miss a real gem by scrolling through too quickly.

**Stock queries** If you leave comments enquiring about items, don’t forget to check back for replies.

**Making payment** Pay for an item as soon as you can, or when the dealer contacts you with payment details, to avoid delays and secure your purchase.

**Postage and packing** Remember to ask about delivery/shipping costs. Dealers are usually happy to arrange this but they may need to confirm prices.

**Discover more** Don’t forget that Insta events stay online in grids and highlights, so you can go back any time to find dealers.



Original hand-built industrial lighting, made from vintage components by JAMS Ironworks



© F. KEN ANTIQUES @FKENANTIQUES

F. Ken Antiques stocks vintage furniture and art, with a focus on one-off items





The French Shed's stall set-up mimics the bucolic surroundings of many Dorset Brocante events

©THEFRENCHSHED @THEFRENCHSHED



Decorative and salvaged treasures for the home and garden from Issea Pink

©ISSEAPINK @ISSEAPINK

## THE DORSET BROCANTE: INSTA BROCANTE

As organiser of The Dorset Brocante events, held seasonally at beautiful historic locations across the county, Sally Knott also sells on Instagram @theappleloft. Knowing all too well what the impact of Covid-19 would be on many small businesses, she took a leap of faith and transferred her events to Instagram. 'Starting the brocantes five years ago, it has always been important to me that they should be friendly and supportive of small vintage and artisan businesses,' says Sally. 'Popularity has grown; we host about 50 exhibitors at each event now and have an abundance of regular buyers.'

With the country in turmoil and uncertainty about when fairs would be back on the ground, she saw the worlds of many of the small businesses who exhibit with her begin to fall apart. 'I wanted to try to help, and as the event at the Larmer Tree on 3 May had to be postponed, I invited all those due to exhibit to take part in the Insta event on the same date. The response was incredible, and a second date was quickly set for 27–28 June, this time taking place over two days to satisfy the demand.'

With six weeks to organise, promote and set up the first event, Sally devised a format which sees @thedorsetbrocante posting five images of each exhibitor's stock on the day of the event – often in a mock-stall set-up – alongside a short intro to each business and a link to their Instagram page. From here, buyer and seller do business directly with each other. It's simple and it works.

'My main worry was technical failure and overload, which was in fact fine on the day,' Sally recalls. 'There was also a lot

of chivvying of exhibitors and getting them organised at a time when we were in the grips of the pandemic and there were a lot of fears about health and finance. The most amazing thing is that out of all the uncertainty has come a platform to sell countrywide, and worldwide – something I'd never before considered. Now those who can't attend one of our actual brocantes can take part and enjoy the experience, not to mention discover fantastic stock right at their fingertips. Going forward, I plan to run the Insta Brocante alongside actual events; there will always be those who prefer to sell and buy "for real" but the online market is a winner for all.'

The next Insta Brocante will take place on 1 August, at 10am–3pm. [@thedorsetbrocante](https://www.instagram.com/thedorsetbrocante) #thedorsetbrocante

# Cherish

ECO-INNOVATORS HELPING US CARE FOR OUR HOMES,  
THE PLANET AND ITS PEOPLE

- Eco homeware, from the new flatpacks to vintage glass diffusers
- How to call zero tolerance on food waste
- Upcycling project *Interestingly Different*, supporting adults with learning disabilities



88 future home • 92 eco • 98 reclaim with heart

# future home

News, products and ideas from the green front line

WORDS ANNA TURNER



## SUSTAINABLE STOCKPORT

Ecopia is a new virtual store in Greater Manchester encouraging customers to buy eco-conscious toiletries and cosmetics, handcrafted soaps and candles. Many products are available as refills, with a deposit scheme on refillable glass containers for candles and aluminium bottles for body wash, shampoo and conditioner.

Founder Francesca Newton works closely with local artisans, including Mrs Frisbee's All Naturals, Whitegates Wuzzies and Vintage Belle Crafts, as well as local knitters who make crocheted face scrubbies to replace wasteful make-up wipes. 'Often, cheap make-up and toiletries contain chemicals associated with hormone

disruption, which is scary,' says Francesca, who began researching alternatives to plastic and chemically laden cosmetics in a bid to protect her family's health. 'At Ecopia, we're committed to keeping our environmental impact to a minimum - I compare myself to an eco Avon lady!'

○ [ecopistockport.co.uk](http://ecopistockport.co.uk)



## LIGHT THE WAY

A contemporary and chic addition to a kitchen counter, dining or living room, this ribbon lamp is made entirely from recycled plastic bottles, and constructed in the UK using a 3D printer. Combining style, sustainability and technology, layers of recycled plastic wrap around the Wilma bulb from Plumen – designers of low-energy lighting – leaving a sliver of light to streak through.

○ Ribbon lamp £200; [rechic.co.uk](http://rechic.co.uk)



## TURKISH DELIGHT

Alice Prichard gives Asian and Persian textiles a new lease of life, transforming old ikat silks and antique kilim rugs into bags, cushions, lampshades and re-upholstered chairs, footstools and chaise longues.

‘We can create bespoke commissions and help customers source a rug from our Turkish stockpile in their preferred colour, pattern and measurements,’ says Alice, who works from a converted stable in Devon with many products handmade at a family-run factory in Turkey. She was inspired to set up her business, World Secrets, after travelling around the globe. ‘I wanted to use the colourful fabrics that I’d seen in these amazing countries to create really good quality products that are also ethically made.’

○ [worldsecrets.co.uk](http://worldsecrets.co.uk)

## RAGS TO RICHES

Sisal & Seagrass celebrates ethnic design and geometric patterns with its new collection of natural GoodWeave-certified Satara rugs. Handcrafted in India, the rugs are made from natural fibres, including repurposed old cotton clothing, recycled leather and jute, by small-scale producers using traditional techniques.

The Udaipur Chindi rag rug (pictured) is made using 100 per cent recycled cotton discarded during the clothing manufacturing process. The cloth is washed, dyed and woven to create eye-catching designs which are available in four colour palettes.

○ Udaipur Chindi rag rug from £23.95; [sisalandseagrass.co.uk](http://sisalandseagrass.co.uk)



## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Inspired by the pure air of Stockholm’s archipelago and recommended by Asthma Allergy Nordic, Blueair’s Classic air purifiers use innovative HepaSilent technology to cleanse the air inside your home. The Classic 480i is suitable for rooms up to 40 square metres and removes up to 99.97 per cent of airborne particles as small as 0.1 microns in size from the air we breathe, plus it kills 99 per cent of airborne viruses and bacteria. The units are quiet, energy-efficient and can be controlled via an app.

○ Blueair Classic 480i £629; [blueair.com](http://blueair.com)





## PACK & GO

Designed by award-winning architect Henning Stummel, Nomad London has launched its second collection of sustainable plywood flat-pack furniture. Exclusively made in Britain, the armchair, sofa, stool and children's chair arrive in flat-pack form and can be easily assembled with no need for glue, screws or tools.

The Model 19 armchair (pictured) flat packs into a compact pizza box and weighs less than 10kg. Each piece is made from only one sheet of plywood, roll of fabric or hide in order to reduce wastage, with design geared towards eco-conscious city-living.

○ Model 19 armchair from £280; [nomad.london](http://nomad.london)

## VINTAGE SCENTS

Mother-and-daughter duo Jo Lyle and Francesca Scott of Vintage & Bespoke repurpose vintage cut-glass bottles to make flower diffusers, as an alternative to sticks or reeds. Luxury gift sets are available with round or square cut-glass bottles, or choose from original ink bottles and period glass bottles – with everything from early Georgian to retro – to create your own bespoke diffuser with Vintage & Bespoke flowers.

'We scour markets, shops and fairs for our bottles – any excuse to go to an antiques fair!' says Francesca. 'Last year, we sourced more than 6,000 original

pieces via a specialist dealer, so we probably have one of the largest collections of cruet bottles anywhere.'

Eight naturally inspired fragrances, all produced by specialist perfume houses in the UK, include English Rhubarb, Mocha Amber, Oriental Jasmine, and Tea Rose, with refills available too. Each fragrance is drawn up into the peony flower head through the cotton wick and diffuses into the room.

○ Fragrance diffuser set from £12, luxury flower diffuser gift box £35; [vintageandbespoke.co.uk](http://vintageandbespoke.co.uk)



## SALAD DAYS

Natural and plastic-free, the Nu Bento lunchbox is made from glass with a bamboo lid, cotton strap and a Hevea seal, which is made with natural rubber sap and wood, and silicone-free. Developed by French manufacturers Cookut, the wood and cotton are sourced from sustainable organic plantations and Nu Bento will plant more trees to support further production.

○ Nu Bento lunchtime set £34.90; buy online at [formahouse.co.uk](http://formahouse.co.uk)

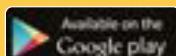
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# WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Anna Turns discovers the food revolution  
that's tackling waste

**A** pack of tomatoes there, a few forgotten bananas here. It's easily done, but every year UK households waste a shocking 4.5 million tonnes of food that could otherwise have been eaten. That equates to a total worth of £14 billion or £700 for an average family with children, according to a recent study by WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme).

But it's not all doom and gloom. Over the last three years there have been signs of progress. There's been a 4 per cent reduction of food waste in the supply chain, and household waste has fallen by 6 per cent from 7.1 million tonnes to 6.6 million tonnes. But the volume still

being wasted represents the equivalent of 10 billion meals, with potatoes the single most wasted food.

Helen White from Love Food Hate Waste ([lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com)) – WRAP's citizen food waste campaign – believes that 2020 is a year for change and that we should aim to meet the United Nation's global target to halve food waste by 2030. 'We've got 10 years to meet that really ambitious target, but this is achievable!' she says. 'It's a crucial issue in the fight against climate change, as wasted food has a huge environmental impact. Public awareness of our planet's vulnerability has never been greater, so we need to galvanise that and turn it into action – starting with the food on your plate.'





Combating food waste is crucial to fighting climate change, as it has environmental consequences

Elephant Box stainless steel three-in-one snackbox tiffin, £25, [elephantbox.co.uk](http://elephantbox.co.uk)



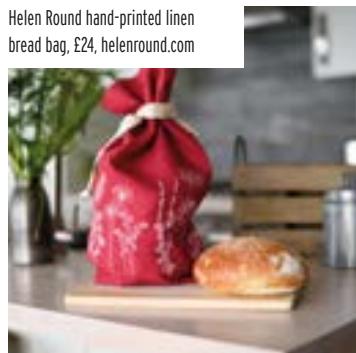
Wild & Stone organic beeswax food wraps, £9.99 for a set of three, [wildandstone.com](http://wildandstone.com)

## Eco food storage ideas

Washable bowl covers by Marley's Monsters, £28.95 for three, [liveinthebright.co.uk](http://liveinthebright.co.uk)



Helen Round hand-printed linen bread bag, £24, [helenround.com](http://helenround.com)



Yuggen silicone ziplock bag, £8.49 (large), [yuggen.org](http://yuggen.org)



Oak & Rope airtight glass storage jars, £115 for three, [theoakandropecompany.co.uk](http://theoakandropecompany.co.uk)



A Slice of Green organic cotton mesh produce bag, £7 for three, [asliceofgreen.co.uk](http://asliceofgreen.co.uk)



Black + Blum glass bowl with wood fibre base and stainless steel lid, £29.95 (750ml), [black-blum.com](http://black-blum.com)



Klean Kanteen insulated food canisters, £18.95 (8oz), [kleankanteen.co.uk](http://kleankanteen.co.uk)



Rex London bamboo bread bin, £39.95, [rexlondon.com](http://rexlondon.com)



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## SUPERMARKETS, STORES AND SUPPLIERS

In 2011, Sainsbury's became the first British supermarket to stop sending food waste to landfill – they now send excess food to an anaerobic digester to create energy, but also reduce food waste through better inventory control and sales forecasting, and by donating edible but unsellable food to the hungry through charities like FareShare. In 2016, the big four supermarkets – Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Morrisons – signed a voluntary agreement that promised to drive down food and drink waste by a fifth within the next decade. In 2020 all Asda stores will be able to donate food no longer saleable but still edible to charity, while Morrisons operate a nationwide Unsold Food to Charity programme.

And there are numerous independent efforts to tackle food waste all over the UK. The Real Junk Food Project ([trjfp.com](http://trjfp.com)) in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, is a social supermarket stocked only with 'intercepted' food that would otherwise have been thrown away, but which is redistributed to people in need; award-winning Rubies in the Rubble makes chutneys, pickles and condiments from imperfect rejected fruit and veg; Rejuice saves edible 'ugly' fruit and veg from being thrown away and turns it into cold-pressed juice; and Toast Ale transforms stale bread into beer – apparently, we waste 24 million slices every day which is almost 900,000 tonnes a year. Plus this

**'retail stores only account for less than 5 per cent of food waste'**

Many supermarkets now tackle waste with improved inventory control, as well as donating to food charities

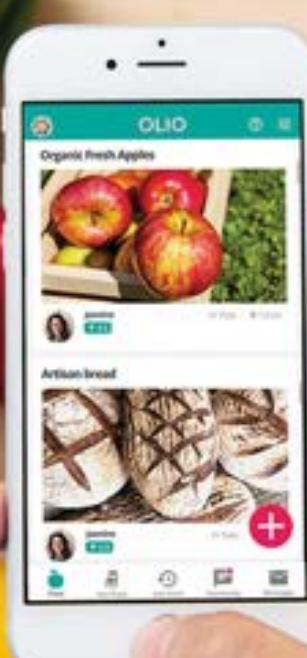
year Gail's Bakery – a London-based group of bakeries – is introducing a new Waste Not range of foods, including repurposed sourdough loaves and refashioned croissants.

Despite these wonderful initiatives, Love Food Hate Waste's citizen research shows that just 35 per cent of us strongly agree that food waste is an important national issue, yet households account for 70 per cent of the UK's food waste post-farm gate and almost three-quarters of that is edible. So we still have a long way to go.



## Top tips to reduce your food waste at home

- **Plan your meals** Get organised before you shop and choose recipes that use seasonal produce.
- **Buy only what you need** Zero-waste shops are great for dried produce and spices, for example.
- **Use your freezer** Store extra portions or half a loaf of bread in the freezer and save for another day.
- **Ditch the peeler** Scrub root veg, like potatoes and carrots, to clean them instead.



© OLIANNE STAFF

Olio's app enables you share to unwanted food with neighbours in your area

### ON THE HOME FRONT

One method of tackling food waste is by using technology. You might have heard of Olio ([olioex.com](http://olioex.com)) – a free app enabling people to 'share their spare'. You can upload your glut of rhubarb from the allotment, an extra portion of homecooked lasagne or opened packet of bread flour and someone else can make use of it. Tessa Clarke, co-founder of Olio, thinks there are huge misconceptions about the source of food waste. 'Most people assume food waste comes predominantly from supermarkets but the reality is that retail stores only account for less than 5 per cent of food waste – meanwhile, 28 million households throw away approximately 20 per cent of their weekly shop in comparison to 10–15,000 stores throwing away 0.5 per cent,' she says.

As a farmer's daughter and a self-proclaimed 'pathological hater' of food waste, Tessa believes that part of the problem is that we have become 'completely divorced' from the reality of food production. 'Nobody particularly enjoys throwing away food because food is our life source,' she says. 'We have evolved as a species to be successful precisely because we share our most precious resource, our food – and we're quite unique in doing that. But in our homes, and collectively as a nation, we've somewhat lost our ability to cook; we've lost our self-confidence, creativity and resourcefulness in the kitchen. We don't value food and it's a much smaller percentage of our household expenditure than it ever used to be.'

Food waste is an enormous distribution problem – globally there are 900 million hungry people and 1 billion people overfed, and world hunger is on the rise. According to the FAO (the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization), an estimated



© SHUTTERSTOCK

one-third of all food produced globally is lost or goes to waste, and if food waste were a country, it would be the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions after the USA and China.

In the Western world, we might instinctively overbuy as a safety net (just think of the stockpiling we've experienced during the coronavirus pandemic), but because we tend to live in individual 'silos', often away from our families, we're less connected to each other and so less likely to have anyone to pass unwanted food on to. That's where Olio comes in. With 1.9 million users, more than 3.5 million portions of food have been shared in the UK and beyond, as far flung as Mexico, New Zealand and Singapore. Tessa explains that the environmental impact of this is huge. 'It's equivalent to taking 10 million car miles off the road and we've also saved over 500 million litres of water because food production is incredibly water-intensive,' she says.

‘households produce 70 per cent of food waste post-farm gate and almost three-quarters of that is edible’



#### KITCHEN KNOW-HOW

Chefs are backing the drive to tackle food waste too. There are zero-waste restaurants popping up all over the UK, and eco chefs publishing books devoted to zero-waste cooking. Eco chef Tom Hunt encourages a predominantly plant-based diet and employs the principles of ‘root to fruit’ eating to avoid waste. ‘No matter how hard we try, we all waste a little food every now and again,’ writes Tom in his new book, *Eating for Pleasure, People and Planet*. ‘Root-to-fruit eating provides solutions for saving food and making sure every last morsel makes it into our family’s tummies.’

In addition to focusing on local, seasonal ingredients that inherently have a low impact on the environment, Tom advocates eating the whole vegetable, from root greens, to stalks and peelings which can be both nutritious and delicious, as well as eating wholefoods such as wholegrains, unrefined sugar and minimally processed cereals which retain the most flavourful parts of ingredients and are healthier for us too.

Tessa explains that confusion about food labelling significantly contributes to food waste. ‘Many people don’t understand the difference between “best before” and “use by” dates: a “use by” date is a health and safety issue so food should not be eaten beyond then, but “best before” dates are simply a guide,’ she says. ‘That food is perfectly safe and delicious to eat for weeks, months and even years after that date, but so many people end up throwing that food in the bin.’ She also warns that composting should only ever be a last resort. ‘Yes, of course composting is better than landfill but more than 90 per cent of the carbon emissions associated with food production includes everything it takes to get it to your plate. From the transport and distribution, refrigeration and packaging, to the manufacturing, labour and water usage, an enormous amount of resources go into producing your food, and when that food is wasted – whether it goes to landfill or compost – all those resources have been wasted.’

What can we do? Think creatively and treat food waste as ingredients – blitz stale bread into breadcrumbs or make croutons, boil a chicken carcass to make your own stock, or preserve and pickle fruit and veg in oils and vinegars. The opportunities are infinite and the challenge to combat food waste can be a delicious journey of discovery. ☀

» Go to *Zero Waste Near Me* ([zerowastenear.me](http://zerowastenear.me)) to find community fridges where you can share unwanted food, and *ShareWaste* ([sharewaste.com](http://sharewaste.com)) to donate your fruit and veg scraps to others locally with compost heaps

#### Tom Hunt’s root-to-fruit eating

© JENNY ARNS



##### Burnt courgettes with its leaves and flowers

You can make this recipe on a griddle pan in the kitchen or over hot coals on an open fire. It is inspired by the classic aubergine dip, baba ganoush. Blacken the courgettes until the insides are tender and smoky, but don’t discard the charred exterior – the bitter flavours are delicious mashed into the salad with the tahini sauce. This is a good recipe for using up old courgettes, as the whole exterior is charred, cooking out any blemishes.

##### Serves 4

**4 medium courgettes**  
**100g courgette leaves (or spinach)**  
**extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing**  
**100ml tahini sauce or yogurt**  
**2 tbsp maple syrup, or other sweetener**  
**1/4 unwaxed lemon, zest and juice**  
**2 courgette flowers (or other edible flowers), optional**

**1** Either light a charcoal barbecue and allow the coals to go white-hot, then cool down a little, or heat a griddle pan over a medium-high heat. Char the whole courgettes on the hot barbecue or griddle, allowing each side to blacken slightly before turning them over.  
**2** Meanwhile, brush the courgette leaves (or spinach)

with oil and grill alongside the courgettes for just a few minutes.

**3** Remove the whole courgettes and courgette leaves from the heat and roughly chop with a knife. Gently crush everything together with your hands and season generously with salt and pepper.

**4** Transfer the crushed courgette mixture to a platter and splatter – Jackson Pollock-style – with the tahini sauce or yogurt. Drizzle with the maple syrup, or other sweetener, and lemon juice and zest. Tear the flowers (if available) into pieces and place them on top. Serve.

» Recipe extracted from *Eating for Pleasure, People and Planet* by Tom Hunt (Kyle Books, £26, hardback; [octopusbooks.co.uk](http://octopusbooks.co.uk))



© JENNY ARNS

# RECLAIM with heart

Our regular feature on an enterprise or business which puts social responsibility and global issues at its heart. This month we talk to Nick Walsh of Nickel Support who uses furniture upcycling to work with adults who have learning disabilities

WORDS ALICE ROBERTON

Nickel Support helps adults with learning disabilities become part of their community



The organisation prides itself on the quality of its revamped furniture, often saving pieces from recycling centres



#### **Tell us about Nickel Support.**

Founded in 2012 by Elena Nicola and myself, Nickel Support was set up in the south London borough of Sutton in response to the lack of opportunities for adults with learning disabilities, and is a community organisation run and shaped by the community. After seeing services become stagnant and people not being offered real choice and control over their lives, we decided to tackle change with a passionate belief that we could make a difference. We help people with learning disabilities build confidence, get close to the employment arena, create good working relationships with parents and carers, and find a sense of purpose in their lives and communities.

#### **What is your mission?**

There was a real sense that adults with learning disabilities, their parents and carers had become disillusioned with 'traditional' learning disability organisations, whereby the users of the service are an 'add on' rather than an active part of a community. Nickel Support gives this often-marginalised group the opportunity to have their voices heard and feel some equality. We support adults with learning disabilities not only to become part of their community but also to give back to it.

#### **What's the connection between Nickel Support and Interestingly Different?**

Interestingly Different is an enterprise project which sits under Nickel Support. It essentially delivers the support to our trainees to help them develop a variety of skills around upcycling and selling vintage furniture. The basic concept is to serve as the vehicle to sell the furniture which our trainees work on, the sales and profits of which go back into Nickel Support



to help continue to support more adults with learning disabilities.

#### **Tell us about the skills these trainees learn.**

Trainees have the opportunity to work on all aspects of the process of sourcing, upcycling and selling furniture. Throughout the week we have a number of sessions which are focused on different aspects of the buying and selling process: purchasing furniture at auction, sanding, painting and re-upholstering ready to sell, working in our physical shop, selling on eBay and Etsy, and using social media to showcase pieces. Due to Nickel Support there are now eight people with learning disabilities in paid employment, with up to another 17 projected in two years' time.

#### **How important is recycling and reuse to you?**

Very! Nickel Support has started to make a real difference to the environment in the borough, regularly saving tonnes of unwanted furniture from the local recycling centre – the Interestingly Different donation and collection service has more than doubled over the last year. This is a very proud achievement for the organisation, especially as we are in an age of 'disposable furniture'. It's wonderful to think



Trainees learn to source, upcycle and sell furniture, with these skills helping them find paid employment



how many items of furniture we have saved and given new purpose to. We work hard to offer good items of furniture and don't want people to 'empathy shop' with us – we want people to buy for the quality.

#### **Can you share the challenges and your future plans?**

It's taken quite a few years to crack what we do and we're still learning. The main issue we have is that it takes a bit longer to upcycle goods, as we are teaching the trainees as we go along. Everything takes a little bit longer and we ask our customers to embrace this. Rather excitingly we are moving to a fully refurbished building in October – this has been a huge project and it will mean we can have all our services under one roof. ☺

>> [nickel.org.uk](http://nickel.org.uk); [interestinglydifferent.co.uk](http://interestinglydifferent.co.uk)



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WORTH  
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# READER OFFER

Buy a one-year subscription and get a copy of  
*Green Housekeeping* by Christina Strutt\*

Small lifestyle changes can make a big difference to our environment right now, and Christina Strutt of Cabbages & Roses shares how in her new book. With everything from recipes for green cleaning products to fusing old-fashioned and newer innovations to care for your clothes and home, being eco-friendly becomes much more achievable. Plus there are tips

on growing your own fruit and vegetables, as well as beauty product preparations and ideas for small lifestyle changes. The book proves that to become eco-friendly doesn't require self-sacrifice – just some readjustment; and by following the advice you will find yourself living a calmer, greener life. *Green Housekeeping* is published by CICO Books, RRP £14.99.



\*Free gift available in the UK only, when you subscribe for 12 months. Not available on Direct Debit subscriptions paid on a quarterly basis. Subject to availability.



# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Looking to bring more light into your home? A glazed extension adds both value and an extra room to your property, enhancing the visual connection and flow between indoor and outdoor living spaces

WORDS LINDSEY HARRAD

**S**traddling the worlds of indoor and outdoor living, the conservatory has entered a new design age. While the word 'conservatory' can conjure up images of white UPVC boxes tacked unsympathetically onto the back of a property, those looking for a stylish extension to their home could consider anything from a simple sunroom to a decadent orangery. Construction could be in low-maintenance UPVC, timber for a traditional and sustainable look, or aluminium with its sleek, contemporary styling and anti-corrosion qualities.

The Victorians first made conservatories popular, although they were used mostly as hothouses to cultivate exotic plants. Today, conservatory design can vary from elaborate Victorian- or Edwardian-inspired constructions to the simplest rectangle or even L-shaped designs. Traditionally, conservatories always had external-quality doors leading into the house, but increasingly people are opting to leave the space open-plan and make them an integral part of the indoor space.

Whether you choose a conservatory, orangery or sunroom (see page 106), a beautifully designed, harmonious glass extension adds flexible living space and value and,

depending on the size and structure, may not even need planning permission. The layout of your home and your individual needs will guide your choice of size and structure, but a conservatory can be used in any number of ways, from creating a larger, sunnier open-plan kitchen-diner, to a home office or studio, playroom or an extra reception room.

Glazed extensions benefit from huge improvements in high-performance glass technology, offering better insulation and solar control, but to use the space all year round you will need either underfloor heating or to extend your central heating. In the summer, a glass room can get incredibly hot and bright, so do consider ventilation and sun-protection options including roof vents/skylights, an orangery design with an opaque roof or installing ceiling blinds – or possibly a combination of these.

When it comes to styling your new glasshouse, you'll find that conservatory décor has stepped up a huge notch in recent years. Previously regarded as garden rooms for spring and summer use, they are now versatile, year-round spaces integral to the family home, so you have the option to reflect your preferred interior design style, or create the feel of a retreat with a unique or adventurous look.

## Simply neutral

A palette of pale taupes and greys has always gone hand in hand with conservatory styling, mainly because the light-fastness of the materials you choose can be an issue – dark or bright colours will fade. So it's worth noting that this isn't the best place to put your antique walnut furniture or display your art collection, as the sun will damage them.

The neutral look is timeless, and if you have a beautiful outdoor space beyond, it allows your hard work in the garden to shine. A modern way to do neutral is to take the traditional conservatory look but pare it back and add a few contemporary design twists. Rattan furniture has always been a good choice because it resists fading – but avoid anything chunky or too dense in structure as it will dominate the space. Bamboo or cane chairs and tables – possibly with metal frames and legs – look lighter, while vintage pieces could also mix and match with contemporary. Try pairing a classic piece such as a neutral linen sofa with

mid-century rattan side tables. A splash of black also works wonders to bring a contemporary touch to a neutral scheme, whether it's through light fittings, chair legs or planters.

As an indoor-outdoor space, using foliage to add colour and lushness to the conservatory is such a simple but effective trick. It immediately creates an airy, fresh feel and links the room with the garden. Sticking with the neutral theme, rustic, natural materials will always work well, such as woven baskets or stone pots, while concrete or galvanised steel planters add a modern, industrial edge. Remember to choose your planting carefully as there can be some extremes of temperature – but it's a great place to overwinter tender plants and to keep garden pots that aren't frost-proof.

For the flooring, while simple stone tiles are a great foundation for any scheme, consider a bolder statement by using geometric or Moroccan-print tiles in a muted colourway or monochrome design. It's still neutral – but with attitude.

## SOURCEBOOK

### ○ Bamboo and rattan furniture

Check out the Hampstead range from Garden Trading ([gardentrading.co.uk](http://gardentrading.co.uk)) for all-weather bamboo furniture, Ella James ([ellajames.co.uk](http://ellajames.co.uk)) for black rattan pieces including a vintage-style peacock chair, or for vintage rattan and bamboo pieces go to Vinterior ([vinterior.co](http://vinterior.co)).

### ○ Floor tiles

A range of beautiful handmade and reclaimed tiles can be found at Maitland & Poate ([maitlandandpoate.com](http://maitlandandpoate.com)).

○ Plant pots For a stylish splash of black in your neutral scheme, Nkuku's Endo plant pots made from recycled iron drums are a characterful and sustainable buy ([nkuku.com](http://nkuku.com)).



## Bohemian dream

There's no reason why your glass extension has to be a UPVC number, but bespoke timber conservatories can be pricey. If you're on a budget or keen on using reclaimed materials then a hand-built, partially glazed design using repurposed timber or even recycled vintage wood or metal-framed windows creates a cool cabin vibe for a less formal sunroom-style extension. Do get expert advice on safe and legal construction if you're not a qualified builder or architect though.

If the build is rustic, the interior style can follow suit, and this is where using mix-and-match upcycled pieces will look like a design choice. Painted wood weathers well in this sun-exposed setting, so use flea market or salvage yard finds and give them a new lease of life with a lick of paint, new upholstery or artfully arranged textiles. The thrifty approach to décor also makes sense in a budget sunroom, which

may not benefit from modern glass technology and where the effects of heat and sunlight may mean pieces need to be refreshed or replaced more regularly.

Look for outdoor fabrics such as acrylic linen-effect textiles that can withstand sun and rain, so they can do double-duty in the garden too, while a fade-proof indoor-outdoor rug in a bold stripe or geo print will protect reclaimed wood or tiled flooring.

As in all conservatories, vintage rattan pieces will work well here, and the currently less fashionable chunkier styles can be picked up cheaply and left natural or dressed up with paint or textiles.

Finish the look with succulents in vintage zinc buckets or aged terracotta planters, old industrial pieces such as metal lanterns or a storage trunk, plus a scattering of sheepskins – and you've got yourself a real boho retreat.

○ **Reclaimed furniture** Modish Living does a stylish range, including pieces with a rustic or industrial look ([modishliving.co.uk](http://modishliving.co.uk)).

○ **Vintage rattan** Etsy is a great place to pick up bargain pieces, from small accessories to sofas and shelving.

○ **Reclaimed wood** For characterful timber to use for construction or flooring, try architectural salvage yards such as The Reclaimed Timber Company ([timberreclamation.co.uk](http://timberreclamation.co.uk)).

○ **Outdoor fabrics** For fade, mildew and water-resistant fabrics for upholstery, cushions and other conservatory textiles, My Fabrics stocks a gorgeous range of options, from deckchair stripes to fun flamingo prints ([myfabrics.co.uk](http://myfabrics.co.uk)).



SOURCE: GINGERBREADS.COM/MARK RYAN



## Heritage hothouse

Conservatories don't have to be glaringly white and bright, inside or outside, and opting for a wooden or aluminium-framed conservatory in a darker or muted colour immediately creates a heritage look. It's a style that works especially well on a period property where you want the structure to harmonise with original exterior stone or brickwork, and it creates a smoother visual transition between home and garden too. If your budget can accommodate an upgrade, consider including architectural details that echo those of your property, such as decorative windows or twin gables for a beautifully bespoke look.

Using reclaimed or vintage-style floor tiles looks fabulous in this type of conservatory, and you can go for something muted and classic such as terracotta, or take inspiration from the peak era for the traditional glasshouse with Victorian-inspired geometric or monochrome

chequerboard tiling. Tiles can be cold underfoot, especially in a conservatory, so consider underfloor heating or add a vintage Persian rug for cosiness.

Although glasshouses are not always the best location for antique wooden furniture, this style of conservatory often suits more traditional, substantial pieces. Look for budget-friendly and robust light-wood styles (avoid darker mahogany and cherry as they will discolour quickly), which can be cheaply upcycled if necessary. Alternatively, vintage wrought-iron dining sets or benches look decorative and tend to age gracefully. Rich, tactile textiles in jewel colours will add depth and comfort to the look, as will painting internal walls in a bold heritage colour.

A conservatory design with a gabled roof can easily accommodate a striking light fitting, which could be a chandelier or something more

### SOURCEBOOK

○ **Victorian and Edwardian tiles** For period-style designs try The Little Tile Company ([littletilecompany.co.uk](http://littletilecompany.co.uk)), or for original salvaged tiles go to The Vintage Floor Tile Company ([thevintagefloortilecompany.co.uk](http://thevintagefloortilecompany.co.uk)).

○ **Vintage dining sets** Browse English Salvage for indoor-outdoor pieces, including ornate cast-iron table and chair sets ([englishsalvage.co.uk](http://englishsalvage.co.uk)).

○ **Tables and storage** Penderyn Furniture has an eclectic selection of antique furniture, with pieces perfect for upcycling too ([penderynfurniture.co.uk](http://penderynfurniture.co.uk)).

○ **Antique garden ornaments** Brownrigg offers a quirky range, including statues ([brownrigg-interiors.co.uk](http://brownrigg-interiors.co.uk)).

contemporary in metal and glass, echoing the exterior construction.

In keeping with the 19th-century glasshouse, accessorise with plenty of foliage – the Victorians loved their parlour palms – as structural and spiky plants housed in weathered terracotta or stone planters will add to the Mediterranean 'Grand Tour' vibe and look like they've been in residence for years. This is also a good place to display your vintage gardenalia, from zinc watering cans to decorative urns or even a bit of antique statuary.



### IS IT A CONSERVATORY, AN ORANGERY OR A GARDEN ROOM?

- A conservatory is made mostly of glass with a fully glazed roof. It usually looks and feels like a garden room (see below), although modern open-plan designs can feel more like a glass extension.
- An orangery usually has a flat, solid roof (often with a roof light) and tends to have a smaller proportion of glass overall, giving it a more substantial look that feels more integral to the main property.
- A garden room or sunroom typically has a solid roof and walls, but generous windows on one or more sides.



## Beautifully bijou

A well-designed conservatory should blend neatly into its surroundings, and if you conveniently have a nook or recess at the back of your house then it doesn't have to significantly change the property's footprint. Even a small glass extension in a simple design can enhance your indoor space – it can extend the kitchen and create a dining area, which then might free up your dining room to become a home office or playroom. In this situation, consider an orangery with an opaque roof to avoid the extra clutter of ceiling blinds that can make the space feel smaller.

To make the most of a smaller structure, it's a good idea to enhance the connection with your outdoor space. Using the same floor tiles in your conservatory and for the patio beyond creates a harmonious flow-through from indoor to outdoor, and in the summer when the doors are open it will feel like one unified space. Stick to organic, natural colours and materials that don't detract from your garden view, such as neutrals or sage green, or for textiles consider adding a splash of botanical print.

Try using the same style of furniture indoors and out. Consider a painted wooden dining set in a soft shade, elegantly weathered wrought-iron pieces, or you could mix and match for a more relaxed, rustic look.

Pretty planting also softens the look, and artfully arranged groups of vintage planters will create a gorgeous view when sitting inside and out. Whether you go for a Mediterranean terrace or cottage-garden look, keep gardening books and tools handy in a vintage wooden dresser or cabinet in the conservatory – these are so easy to pick up cheaply and repurpose with furniture paint. A dresser could also provide display space for indoor plants and storage for pretty glasses and tableware, adding even more sparkle to your glasshouse.

### SOURCEBOOK

- **Stone paving** For reclaimed paving, flagstones and other flooring, try Wells Reclamation ([wellsreclamation.com](http://wellsreclamation.com)) or Natural Stone Consulting ([naturalstoneconsulting.co.uk](http://naturalstoneconsulting.co.uk)).
- **Garden furniture** The Hoarde ([thehoarde.com](http://thehoarde.com)) has a range of vintage dining sets and seating, including decorative wrought-iron pieces, as does Jardinique ([jardinique.co.uk](http://jardinique.co.uk)).
- **Vintage gardenalia** An eclectic mix of all kinds can be found at Rutland Garden Classics ([rutlandgardenclassics.co.uk](http://rutlandgardenclassics.co.uk)).



With thanks to Unique Homestays for the use of photography from Sundance and Zamani. To view their complete portfolio of beautiful holiday properties in extraordinary locations, go to [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com) or follow on Instagram @uniquehomestays.



## Contemporary style

You may have a character property, but you don't have to go for a pastiche period look for your conservatory. The juxtaposition of a sleek, contemporary orangery or glass extension can be a surprisingly sympathetic addition (and is an approach more often favoured by planners when it comes to listed buildings too) and adds a real wow factor to your home, especially if you have a stellar view that's best enjoyed through large panels of unobscured glass.

The crisp architectural approach lends itself well to a kitchen extension or to create an entertaining space, complete with centrepiece dining table and chairs. Just add sliding or bifold doors opening onto a picture-perfect patio – ideal for a sundowner.

Whether you've gone for a vintage or contemporary look throughout your home, this could be an opportunity to do something different in this space. If you've kept the build simple with white walls, black aluminium-framed glass and polished concrete floors, a pared-back industrial look can work really well, with pieces such as a metal-framed dining table with rustic wooden top or reclaimed factory lighting.

Alternatively, why not have fun with some statement colour and go a little Scandi-retro? When you've created a gorgeously open, airy space, you don't want to weigh it down with cumbersome high-backed chairs or a heavy farmhouse table, so look for pieces that seem to float in the space and don't reach eye level – opt for a sideboard for storage rather than a tall dresser, for example. Try mid-century minimalist Scandi pieces for their light, spare, ergonomic designs in teak or oak, or even vintage Ercol. For something with a splash of vibrancy, source Robin Day Polo chair-inspired low-backed seating in fun colours, the simple curves and spindle-thin legs of Eames pieces, or even the iconic Tulip-style chair with its trademark flute-like base for an almost sculptural look.

Pair your cool retro chairs with a simple white table with barely-there legs in keeping with the 'floating' furniture look, and have fun with accessories. If you've got vast white walls to fill, big bold art or retro prints will make a splash (although remember the sun-fading issue, so avoid anything valuable), while a big space could equally accommodate understated modern lighting or a substantial statement piece with a wow factor.

### SOURCEBOOK

○ **Designer chairs** For original-design Tulip chairs go to Nest ([nest.co.uk](http://nest.co.uk)); or find vintage velvet or Eames-style chairs in a range of colours at Hemming & Wills ([hemmingandwills.co.uk](http://hemmingandwills.co.uk)).

○ **Retro and vintage prints** Juniqe has a great selection of prints and posters to add affordable style to walls ([juniqe.co.uk](http://juniqe.co.uk)).

○ **Lighting** Lighting & Lights ([lightingandlights.co.uk](http://lightingandlights.co.uk)) stocks a range of repro retro and industrial lighting, while Decoville ([decoville.co.uk](http://decoville.co.uk)) has some gorgeous statement vintage-inspired lighting.

# GREEN DREAM

In an extract from his book, *Wild Interiors*, plant and interior stylist Hilton Carter discovers the fresh, green home of Dee Campling

IMAGES © HILTON CARTER/CICO BOOKS

Just a two-hour train ride west of London, in the town of Cheltenham, is where I found interior designer Dee Campling. Coming into town, I gazed out of my train window at rolling green hills and wide-open blue sky. The day was just right for a visit to Dee's lovely home.

When I entered, I came in via the kitchen, which is at the back of the house and the brightest and most open room in the home (pictured on pages 112–113). The first thing I took notice of was how many plants there are in the kitchen. Because this part of the house has so many windows, skylights, and just wonderful overall light, this area has the most greenery and also helps blur that line we always talk about: the one between inside and outside.

Dee lives in a classic Victorian villa that was built in 1896. She and husband Rob have lived here for 20 years and now share it with their children Anna, Imogen and Theo – and let's not forget their dog, Ted.

From the kitchen window bench surrounded by potted and hanging greenery to the large fiddle-leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*) that poses next to the dining room table, Dee's kitchen shines with life. Dee thinks they have about 46 plants and I'm almost sure half of them are in this part of the house. While the plants beg for my attention first, the next thing that makes you feel settled in is how beautifully styled the space is. When I asked Dee to describe her style, she said: 'I'm an interior designer and I tend to use my home to try out new paint or furniture styling ideas. I think this helps to keep my look fresh. My style is a mix of Scandinavian, vintage and bohemian. I only allow things that I really love into the house. I think your home should be all about how you want to feel.' Well, I definitely felt relaxed and at home in her space. Job well done, Dee.

If I'm being completely honest though, I think I tend to feel completely at home and relaxed in any home that has a lot of plants. It's just the feeling plants bring me. I'm sure you can all relate. Dee has always been into bringing plants indoors but explained that 'it's gone



»»»

## Meet and greet

In the entrance hall, a Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) and Chinese money plant (*Pilea peperomioides*) are perfectly placed to catch the light coming through the door.





## Plant magic

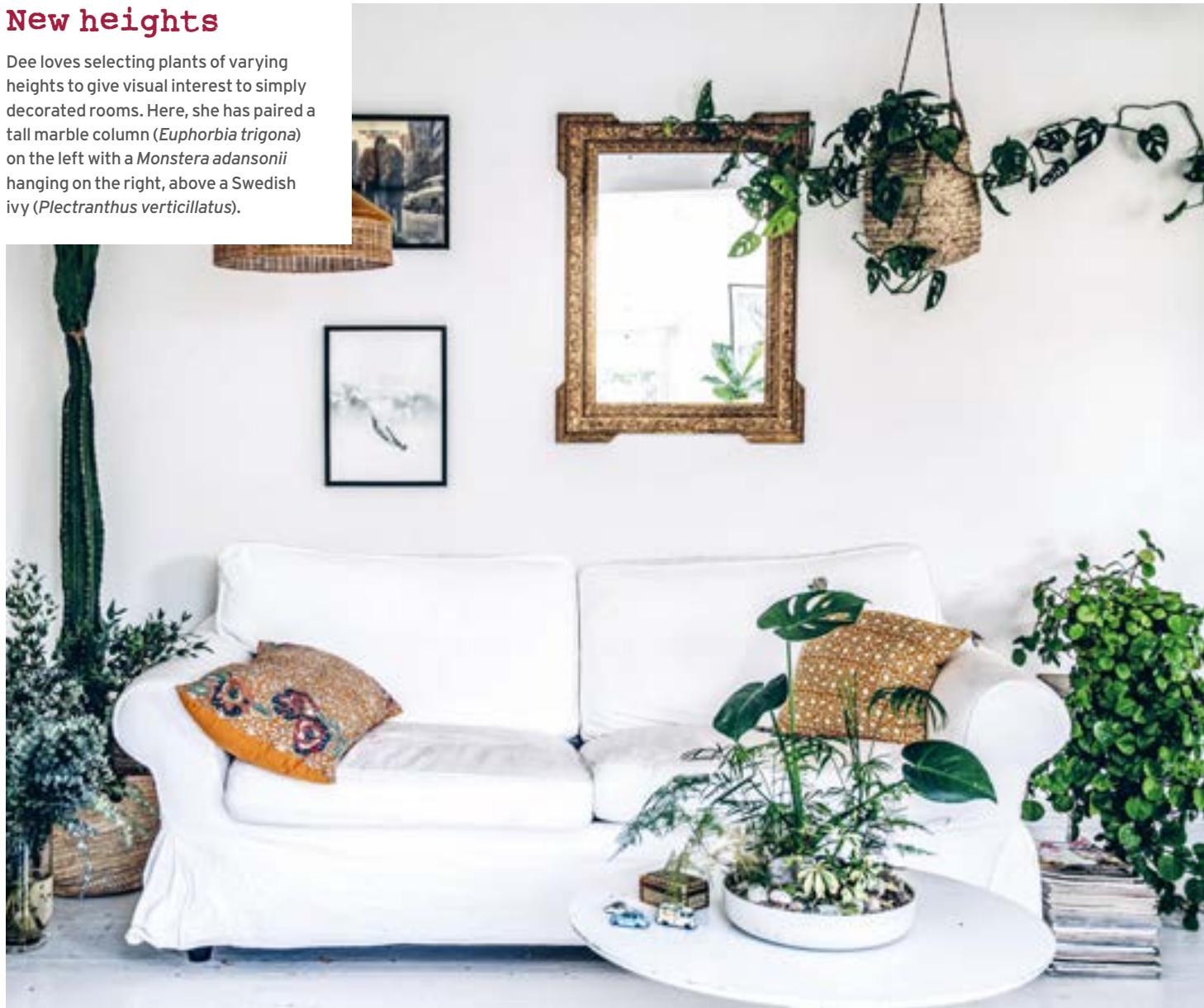
Dee's bright and sunny kitchen is where all the family hang out. With ideal conditions for many plants, nestled among the natural wood we can see (clockwise from the left) a philodendron, fiddle-leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*), string of hearts (*Ceropegia woodii*), Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus verticillatus*) and a *Monstera deliciosa*.



»»»

## New heights

Dee loves selecting plants of varying heights to give visual interest to simply decorated rooms. Here, she has paired a tall marble column (*Euphorbia trigona*) on the left with a *Monstera adansonii* hanging on the right, above a Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus verticillatus*).



into overdrive in the last four years. I love how plants are easily moveable and can instantly change the look of a room and add colour and texture. I think that the popularity of Instagram and Pinterest has opened my eyes to how many plants are available and how great they look en masse. Social media has made me braver about trying lots of creative things, including plants'. I think social media is the driving force behind bringing the plant community together.

Dee recalls seeing plants in both her parents' and grandparents' homes when she was growing up, and she has carried that with her into adulthood. For Dee, having plants around 'makes me feel a lot closer to nature. I love to blur the boundaries between outside and inside, and houseplants are perfect for this'.

The decisions she makes for what types of plants to bring into her home are pretty standard, she says: 'If I buy a new houseplant, it's normally because it's something I've not seen before. My most recent purchase was a philodendron, which I didn't like until recently. I now love the idea of growing it inside the house as a vine - which I first saw on Instagram.'

When it comes to where she'll place the plant once she gets them home, the way she decides is: 'I think about the amount of light in that room. I also avoid radiators. I think about how the vignette of plants will work, and try and select plants of varying heights and with foliage that will both complement and contrast with their plant neighbours. I also think about how I want the room to feel. Some plants - asparagus ferns,

for instance - lend a lighter, delicate touch to a room. Others, such as fiddle-leaf figs, have a stronger look and give a room more structure.'

While Dee makes sure that almost every room in her home gets a touch of green, she doesn't overdo it. You can see her putting this approach to use throughout her home. One of my favourite spots where this is evident is in her studio/office (pictured opposite). Here, she limits the amount of greenery that comes in and selects plants which will mesh well with the mood of the room. You'll see a beautiful still life Dee has created with a long string of hearts (*Ceropegia woodii*), vintage furniture, and feathery reeds and dried seed heads - this scene is a true picture of Dee's unique way of styling plants.

## Studio scenes

The softness of the hanging string of hearts (*Ceropegia woodii*) next to the Venetian plaster-style painted walls, and the small plants on top of the cabinet, really tell a story of how Dee puts together a room – every object is perfectly balanced and not too much.



**READER OFFER**

*Wild Interiors* by Hilton Carter is available to *Reclaim* readers for the special price of £12 (RRP £16.99), with free UK p&p. To order, go to [rylandpeters.com](http://rylandpeters.com) and enter code WILDRECLAIM12 at the checkout. Offer valid until 31 August 2020.





## Window on the world

Ted sits on his very own plant throne, among a satin pothos (*Scindapsus pictus 'Argyraeus'*), rabbit's foot fern (*Davallia solida* var. *fejeensis*), *Monstera adansonii*, and a heart-leaf philodendron (*Philodendron scandens*).

# Blackpool

*for Sea Sands and Sunshine!*



COURTESY OF KAREN INSON/INTERRAIL PAPER

BRITISH RAILWAYS

TRAIN SERVICES AND FARES FROM STATIONS, OFFICES AND AGENCIES  
OFFICIAL GUIDE FREE FROM H. PORTER, TOWN HALL, BLACKPOOL

A British Railways poster from  
1954 by Studio Seven, promoting  
Blackpool's beaches

STUDIO SEVEN  
INTERRAIL PAPER

# TIME TRAVEL

With travel restricted for the moment, three specialist dealers reveal how vintage travel posters can help satisfy our wanderlust

WORDS NORMAN MILLER

**A**t a time when very few of us can physically travel far at all, vintage travel posters are an evocative reminder of stylish past getaways that fuel our dreams of travelling again. These graphic visions are windows giving us a glimpse of a world of destinations and evocative modes of travel, presented via a seductive fusion of bold colour, distinctive lines and seductive typography. Little wonder old travel posters have a broad appeal.

‘Some people choose a poster because of a personal connection to the destination; other people just love the graphic image,’ says specialist dealer Kiki Werth ([kikiwerth.com](http://kikiwerth.com)). ‘Travelling today is routine and often not that pleasant,’ adds Karen Lansdown of mid-century poster specialist Travel on Paper ([travelonpaper.com](http://travelonpaper.com)). ‘But these vintage posters hark back to a time when something like flying across the Atlantic was exciting – and often quite luxurious too.’

And these old-school travel come-ons are true works of art. ‘These posters were created to grab the attention of passers-by, presenting artists with the challenge of condensing the message or a concept into a precise, short visual and written



Tom Eckersley's simple design from the 1960s advertises a series of UK travel guides for British Railways



COURTESY OF KAREN LANSDOWN/RAIL ON PAPER

European nations are represented by different breeds of dog in this humorous 1960s poster by Dick Negus and Philip Sharland



COURTESY OF KAREN LANSDOWN/RAIL ON PAPER

form in a single artwork,' says Kirill Kalinin, founder of specialist poster gallery AntikBar on London's Kings Road (antikbar.co.uk). 'They are important items of social history that capture the essence of the time they were printed.'

Posters were established as an art form in the late 19th century, when the advent of high-speed colour lithography made mass production possible. They were often created by artists augmenting their income to avoid starving in the proverbial garret – though A-list painters like Toulouse-Lautrec also turned their hand to early poster design. These mass-production masterpieces flaunt the cultural tropes of their day. 'Posters absorbed and reflected prevailing and

changing art styles and fashions,' says Kirill. Art nouveau provided hip graphic inspiration from the late 1800s to the early 1920s, then art deco became a seductive template in the late 1920s and 30s, before it was eased aside when the modernist and mid-century look arrived in the 1950s.

But even within any particular era, distinctive styles could buck general trends. Posters from different countries could channel their own unique look, for example, such as the striking 1930s work of Soviet designer Maria Nesterova-Berzina for campaigns like 'Visit the Resorts of the USSR' – eye-catching visions of proletarian paradises different from those in the decadent West. 'My favourite period for poster and graphic design is the 1920s to 1930s,' says Kirill. 'Some of the most iconic art movements were developed in this era: art deco around the world, constructivism in Russia, Bauhaus in Germany, De Stijl in the Netherlands. There was an explosion of creativity worldwide that resulted in stunning designs. It was an era of elegant style in travel poster design promoting cruise liners, early air travel and steam railways.'

In Britain, the visual dynamism of the Futurist art movement inspired iconic 1930s' posters by Sybil Andrews and Cyril Powers for London Transport. The two often worked together too, signing works with the composite name 'Andrew Power'. London Transport posters also provide proof that a brilliant artist could make anywhere seem enticing. Just check out Edward McKnight Kauffer's lovely 1915 poster bigging up Watford, or a 1920s beauty aiming to entice punters to check out 'Chingford by Motor Bus' (both now in the British Council Collection).

**'These posters presented artists with the challenge of condensing the message into a precise, single artwork'**



COURTESY OF ANTIKBAR



COURTESY OF ANTIKBAR

Clockwise from top left: Baveno, Italy, designed in the 1950s by Mario Puppo for the Italian National Tourist Board; Air France Extrême Orient, 1950, by Lauren Boucher; Air France USA, 1960s, by Roger Excoffon; Etretat for French Western Railways, 1900s belle époque design by F. Lune

## Must-see

### V&A Museum

The V&A has been actively collecting posters on an international scale dating back to the early 20th century. The London institution now hosts the UK's most extensive collection, featuring over 26,000 items, including iconic examples by masters of the travel form such as Cassandre and Edward McKnight Kauffer.

○ Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL; [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)

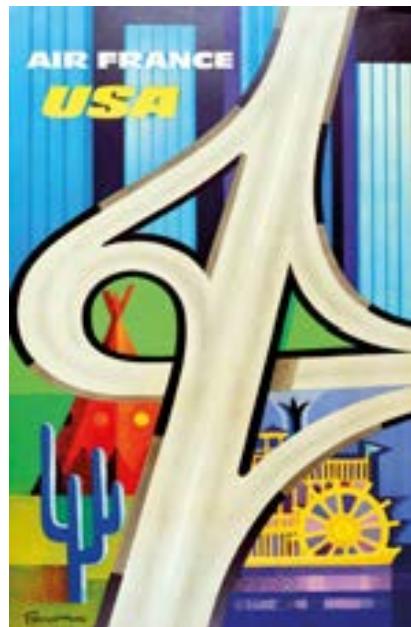
### Danish Poster Museum

When we can travel to Europe again, the buzzing historic Danish city of Aarhus is home to a dedicated poster museum with both an exhibition gallery plus a separate archive boasting an incredible 200,000 posters from around the world.

○ Viborgvej 2, 8000 Århus, Denmark; [danskplakatmuseum.dk/thedanishpostermuseum](http://danskplakatmuseum.dk/thedanishpostermuseum)



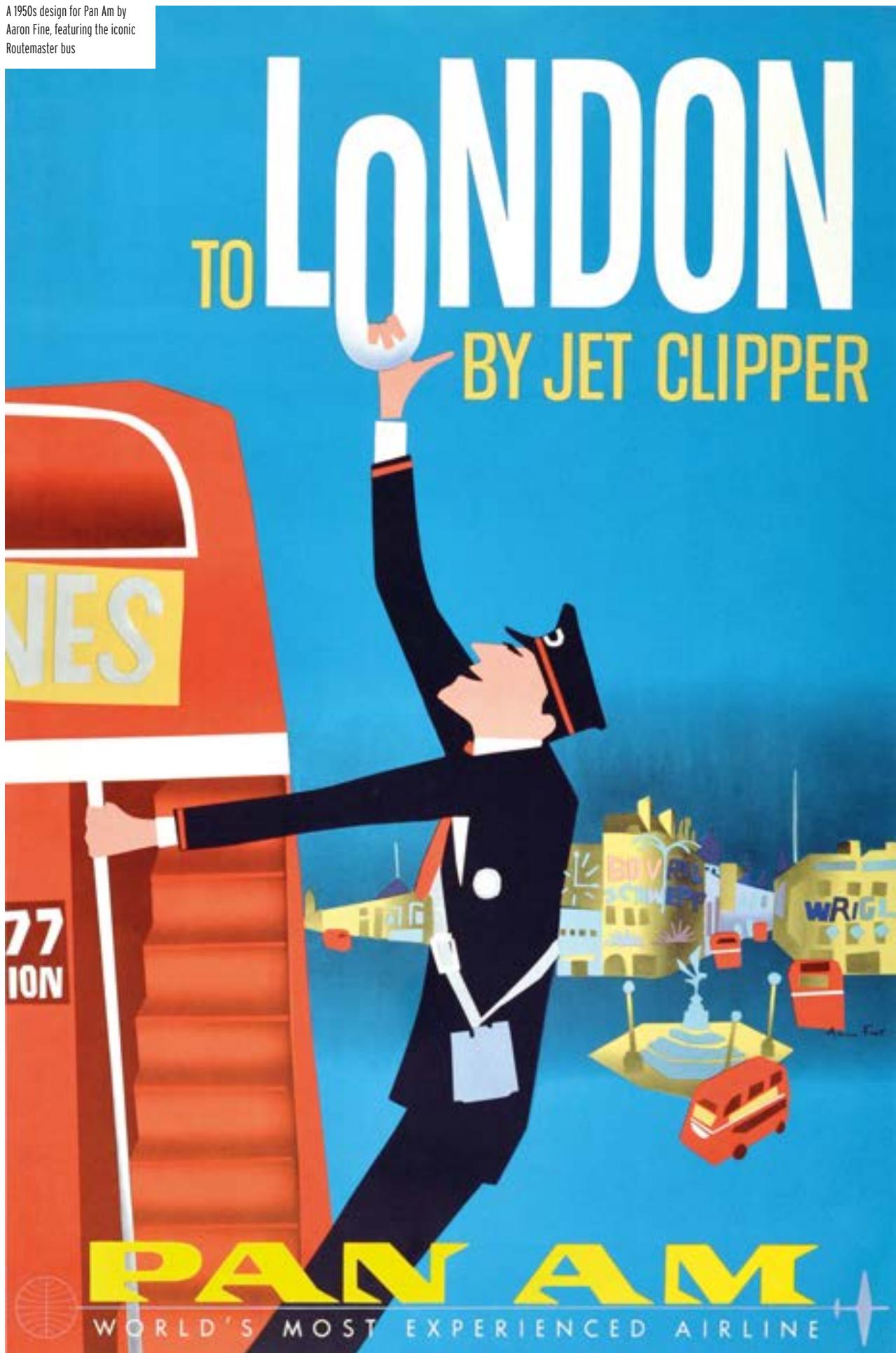
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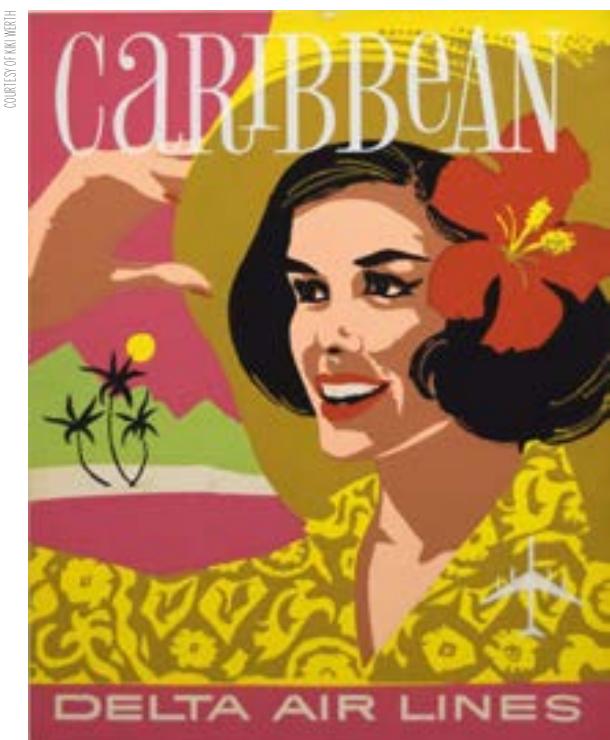
COURTESY OF ANTIKBAR

A 1950s design for Pan Am by Aaron Fine, featuring the iconic Routemaster bus

COURTESY OF ANTIK BAR



Silhouetted palm trees and an exotic flower encapsulate a Caribbean holiday vibe in John Hardy's 1960s artwork



COURTESY OF KIRILL KALININ

Kiki Werth is a huge fan of British railway posters. 'The golden age was from 1923 to 1940, when GWR, Southern Railways, LNER and LMS were competing for business,' she says. Her top names among UK travel poster creatives include Edward McKnight Kauffer, Tom Purvis for 1920s/30s deco railway posters, plus Harry Stevens's light-hearted bus and underground posters of the 1960s and 70s. Kiki also pays homage to the brilliant Abram Games, whose diverse output includes a raft of memorable non-travel posters created in his role as Britain's official war-poster artist during World War II.

Further afield, Kiki spotlights graphic celebrations of early commercial air travel from the 1930s to 50s, featuring now-vanished airlines like Imperial Airways, plus BOAC and Mark von Arenburg's 1950s Pan Am Clipper posters. Sticking with old US airlines, Karen Lansdown points me towards David Klein's work promoting TWA. Shipping posters from the 1920s and 30s are another hot area, where famous images include the sleekly powerful 1935 cruise-line masterpiece *Normandie* by French art deco designer Adolphe Mouron (aka Cassandre).

While the rarest vintage movie posters can fetch prices approaching a million bucks once mega-rich collectors like Leonardo di Caprio set their eyes on particular rarities, travel posters are far more affordable – even at the top end. In 2016, a 1934 poster by the Swiss artist Alex Walter Diggelmann advertising Gstaad made the record price of £62,000 at Christie's. But if you had bid for an identical example of the same poster the auctioneer sold in 2011, you could have picked it up for £1,300. And you can start a collection for far less. 'Prices generally start from £150,' says Kirill Kalinin at

AntikBar. 'We also run specialised vintage poster auctions four times a year, where prices start at £20.' At Travel on Paper, Karen Lansdown's stock starts from just £40, although her rarest current poster is just under £1,500. Kiki Werth's price range, meanwhile, sits between £200 and £2,000.

One good way to begin is to decide on a theme that appeals to you. 'Some people focus on a particular company, such as White Star, Imperial Airways or Pan Am, while others focus on a particular country,' says Kirill. 'Often demand is driven by new collectors. For example, I've seen a rising demand for India-related posters recently, which has pushed up prices.' But vintage poster passions are as varied as people. 'Some may decide to collect a particular artist – but I know people who only collect Cornwall posters,' says Karen.

Putting the dealers on the spot, I ask them if they have a favourite in their current stock. 'My favourite at the moment is a London poster designed by Aaron Fine for Pan Am,' says Kirill. 'This minimalist and quirky design [pictured opposite] manages to convey the essence of the city in a fun and approachable way.'

Just to prove the variation you can get in posters promoting the same destination, Kiki Werth and Karen Lansdown both pick Alitalia airline posters promoting Venice – but each utterly different. Karen's choice is an ingenious 1960s typography collage of St Mark's Square by Amilcare Pizzi, while Kiki picks a simple brightly coloured 1950s design by Lemoine. 'It's a happy poster that makes me think of travels to Europe that we miss so much at the moment,' she says.

But through these posters we can all still travel in vintage style – even if only with our eyes for now. 

## Tips for collectors

### What to look out for when considering a vintage poster's desirability and value

#### Physical condition

Those offered by reputable dealers will be graded from 'A' to 'D' for condition – with 'A' meaning optimum, while 'D' indicates significant restoration work needed. Many vintage posters for sale are backed with linen to add a protective material that also holds the poster firm.

#### Production methods

Posters dating from around 1880 to 1950 were made using a technique called stone lithography that gave a distinctive colour and texture. This method was then scrapped

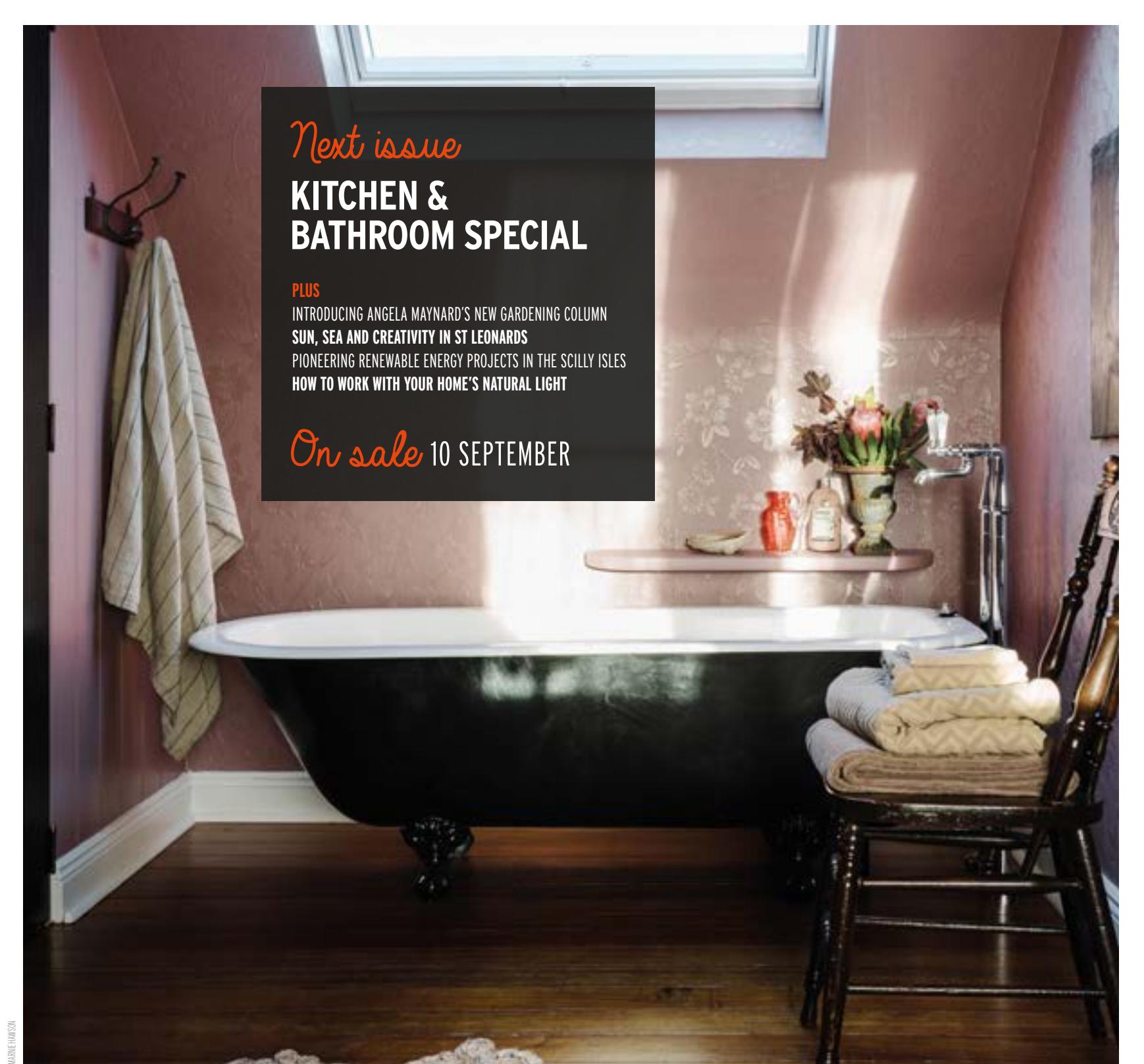
in favour of cheaper techniques, making vintage originals produced the old way more desirable to many collectors.

#### Renowned artists

As with any other form of visual, work by recognised stars of the form generally add value to a particular design – so long as they are original printings, ideally using stone lithography.

#### Rare or unusual posters

Although vintage travel posters are a 'mass production' item, rarity remains a factor that boosts prices for things like limited production runs during periods like World War I. Posters printed in more unusual locations can also command premiums.



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# Insider

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MAKERS, DEALERS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE



○ Daniel Book's lime  
plastering company helps  
restore historic buildings  
○ Simion Hawtin-Smith  
gets outside with inspiration  
from landscape architect  
Lucy Marshall

© TOM BODIE PHOTOGRAPHY

127 *In the workshop* · 128 *My inspiration*



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Win a unique Albert & Edward upcycled movie camera lamp

We've seen designer Duncan McKean's brilliant upcycled creations on BBC's *Money for Nothing*, and now the founder of Albert & Edward is giving a lucky *Reclaim* reader the chance to win one of his unique lights. Worth £230, the prize lamp is created from a 1930s British movie camera on a vintage tripod, adding old-school character to your home.

Well-known for using camera equipment in his designs, Duncan sources his vintage and antique pieces from flea markets and antique fairs, as well as from individuals who have collections, and sells his lighting at Greenwich Market as well as online.

Last year, after showing his collection at Grand Designs Live in London's Excel, Duncan received an exciting phone call. 'I got a call from a number I didn't recognise, so I thought it was PPI or something,' he laughs. 'Then the person said they were from the production team at *Money for Nothing* and my whole tone changed!' He is thrilled to be working with the TV team and has been commissioned by presenter Sarah Moore to make lighting for her home.

Duncan gave up a teaching career in 2017 to pursue his lighting dream – and loves what he does. 'I'm privileged to be paid to do what I do,' he says. 'There are people who collect my work – and it's quite hard to get my head around that!'

To me it's not a job; it's a passion that's now earning money.'

You can discover more of Duncan's current stock of vintage upcycled lighting at [albertandedward.co.uk](http://albertandedward.co.uk).

## How to enter the competition

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, visit [reclaimmagazine.co.uk/competition](http://reclaimmagazine.co.uk/competition) and fill in the online form. Closing date for entries is 9 September 2020. Full terms and conditions are outlined on the website. Good luck!

T&Cs: The prize is for one reader to win an upcycled lamp from Albert & Edward, worth £230. No cash alternative is available. The prize is non-refundable and no correspondence will be entered into. Entries are only valid if they reach us by the closing date and multiple entries will be disregarded. The competition is open to UK entrants only. The publisher's decision is final.

# On the workshop

We speak to Daniel Book, lime plasterer and director of the Organic Plastering Company, about his traditional approach to restoring historic buildings

WORDS ALICE ROBERTON

Daniel provides traditional lime plastering for Bath's Georgian and Victorian buildings



**My interest in lime plastering grew when I was on a plastering job at the American Museum in Bath, working on displays alongside a well-respected lime plasterer.** I started to read up on lime and went on a few courses. In 2008 I started working exclusively in lime and soon found myself working on Bath's beautiful Victorian and Georgian buildings, and later on eco buildings and straw-bale houses.

**I set up my traditional lime plastering company in 2012, to work on historic and old buildings that have a solid mass wall construction, timber lath ceilings and partition walls.** Traditional methods are essential to the wellbeing of old and historic buildings as they need to breathe. These buildings will always absorb moisture and move around, and as lime is a soft and less brittle material it's breathable – it will absorb moisture in humid conditions and release it when it is less humid. I often find myself starting



a small plastering job which ends up being a full building restoration.

**In essence, all plaster is organic as the raw materials come from the earth, but it is quite polluting as production requires high heat which creates a lot of CO<sub>2</sub>.** Lime goes through



a curing process called carbonation where it absorbs the CO<sub>2</sub> that it releases during its manufacture; this makes it carbon-neutral. With lime it's possible to use different organic materials as an aggregate, such as hemp, straw, crushed glass and sand.

**The sites I work on are my 'workshop'.** My essential tools are a selection of trowels and floats, a forced action mixer – and my nose! I can smell damp a mile away and often sniff out damp when I carry out a site survey. ☺

>> [organicplastering.com](http://organicplastering.com)

# My inspiration



Simion Hawtin-Smith, one of the BBC's *Money for Nothing* experts and founder of Reloved Upholstery, shares his practice and creative passions. Here, he meets landscape architect Lucy Marshall

IMAGES © TOM BIDDLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Lucy's own outdoor space is a real 'garden room', with seating to relax and a large desk so she can work



Raised beds help to retain moisture and keep slugs and snails at bay



Tins make instant planters, displayed on a salvaged wooden ladder

Never has an outside space been more appreciated than during the current lockdown. The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home rules means those lucky enough to own a garden have been able to spend more time in it. This period we've spent at home will leave a lasting memory, and could also shape the way spaces are designed in the future.

Lucy Marshall is a senior landscape architect at Manchester-based company CW Studio and is my go-to person when it comes to advice on utilising outdoor spaces and caring for indoor plants. She believes that now more than ever we need to make the most of the places we have available to us – both at home and our public spaces – and that puts an extra demand on landscape architects to get it right.

'From a strategic picture, it's about making sure that there is sufficient outdoor space for densely populated areas,' Lucy says. 'Is it walkable? Or can you cycle to that space? And when you get there, what's the quality of the space? Councils might say they have produced a certain amount of space, however, a smaller space that is well-loved, well-maintained and that feels safe to use, could be more beneficial for people's health and wellbeing.'

Lucy's projects involve researching an area's history – I find it incredible to see the level of detail that goes into her work, be it a new development or a private garden, to incorporate relevant features. 'We have the client's aspirations and brief, but we also want to find out about the space, so we have some history work to do at the beginning of each project,' she explains. 'We look at old maps and photographs, and go to local archives to find out what that space was previously used for. We then look at what materials were being used in the area too. This then feeds into the Landscape Institute's Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan, which was launched to ensure professional landscape architects are working to reduce their environmental impact through their design and management of places, sourcing ethical, low-carbon products



Even a small garden can find a sunny spot for a veg plot

and materials, and in the way they operate as a business.'

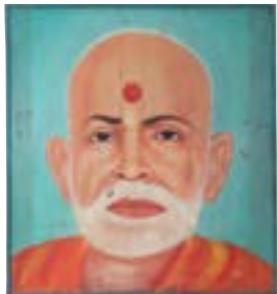
Working from home has enabled Lucy to spend more time in her own garden during lockdown, but with garden centres closed from the end of March until May, she was forced to get creative. And she says that by spending time in her outdoor space it helped to boost the aesthetics of her local environment and offered social interaction with neighbours and people passing by.

'Spring is usually the time when the gardening year starts to kick off; the weather improves and people begin to plan projects for the garden,' says Lucy. 'But this coincided with a time when everyone was forced to stay at home, and we've had to be more resourceful.

I've been using up old seeds, mixing compost with garden soil to make it go further, and swapping plants with neighbours.'

Lucy's garden is constantly evolving. Her husband Pete is, in Lucy's words, 'an eBay master' and sourced a second-hand greenhouse that she's used to grow her own plants. She's also utilised wonderful items such as chimney pots, buckets, Tate & Lyle tins and pallet collars in an excellent use of upcycling to add character to her blossoming garden. 'It's so important to connect to nature,' says Lucy. 'We've always known that the more time you spend outside, the more balanced you are. It's good for you both physically and mentally, and it's our responsibility as landscape architects to make sure we consider this.'

Indian portrait painting of a Hindu guru, sourced from an ashram in India, £500, [scaramangashop.co.uk/vintage-art](http://scaramangashop.co.uk/vintage-art)



'Two Beauties' by Kitagawa Utamaro, £342, [mindtheg.com](http://mindtheg.com)



EDITOR'S  
PICK



'Jan's Dodo' by Tammy Mackay, photopolymer print with hand colouring and perforations, £160, Instagram @tammymackayart (Sold as part of the Covid-19 Artist Support Pledge: artists post pieces on Instagram for £200 or less, with the hashtag #artistsupportpledge; for every five sales an artist makes, they pledge to buy a work from a fellow artist)

# Spotlight on ART & ARTISTS

Beautify your walls, support artists and find something original. It's a win-win



'Nest Head' by Janine Wing, signed limited edition print, £35, [oneoffto25.com](http://oneoffto25.com)



'Cat Eyes Confetti' by Amanda Mulquiny-Birbeck, oil on gesso, £250, [oneoffto25.com](http://oneoffto25.com) (For every print or original sold, 30% will be donated to the NHS Charities Covid-19 Urgent Appeal)

Jonathan Adler  
Smolder wall art,  
hand-beaded by artisans  
onto linen, £1,495,  
[sweetpeaandwillow.com](http://sweetpeaandwillow.com)



'Beetle in the Rain' limited edition print, based on a watercolour by Ross Taylor, £25, [thecuriousdepartment.com](http://thecuriousdepartment.com)



Unframed print of Dionne Warwick, signed by artist Florence Lee, £15, [audenza.com](http://audenza.com)

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Anne-Marie

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